



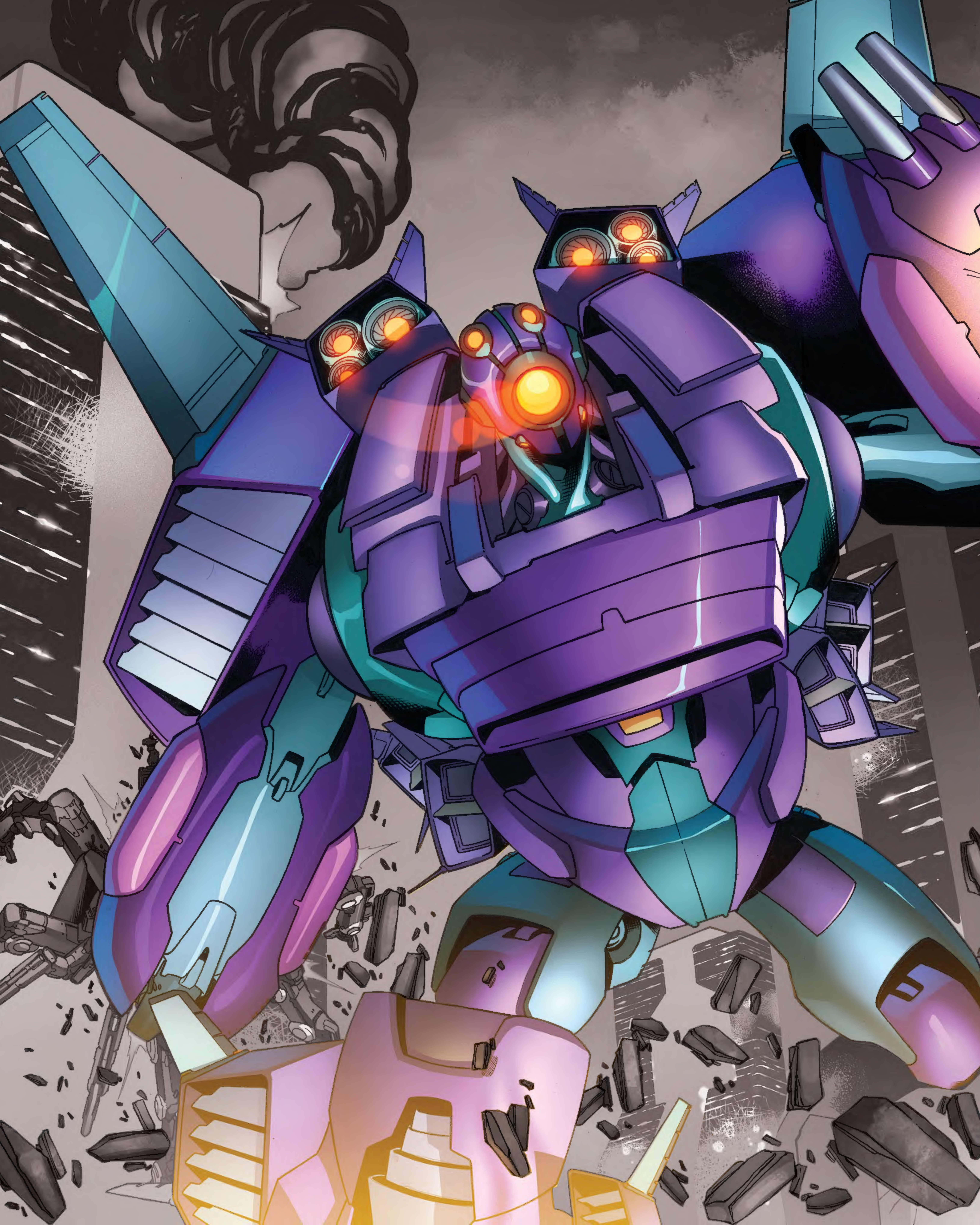
GREEN: LOCK™



- COLLIN KELLY
- JACKSON LANZING
- CARLO BARBERI
- WALDEN WONG



gen:LOCK



gen:LOCK

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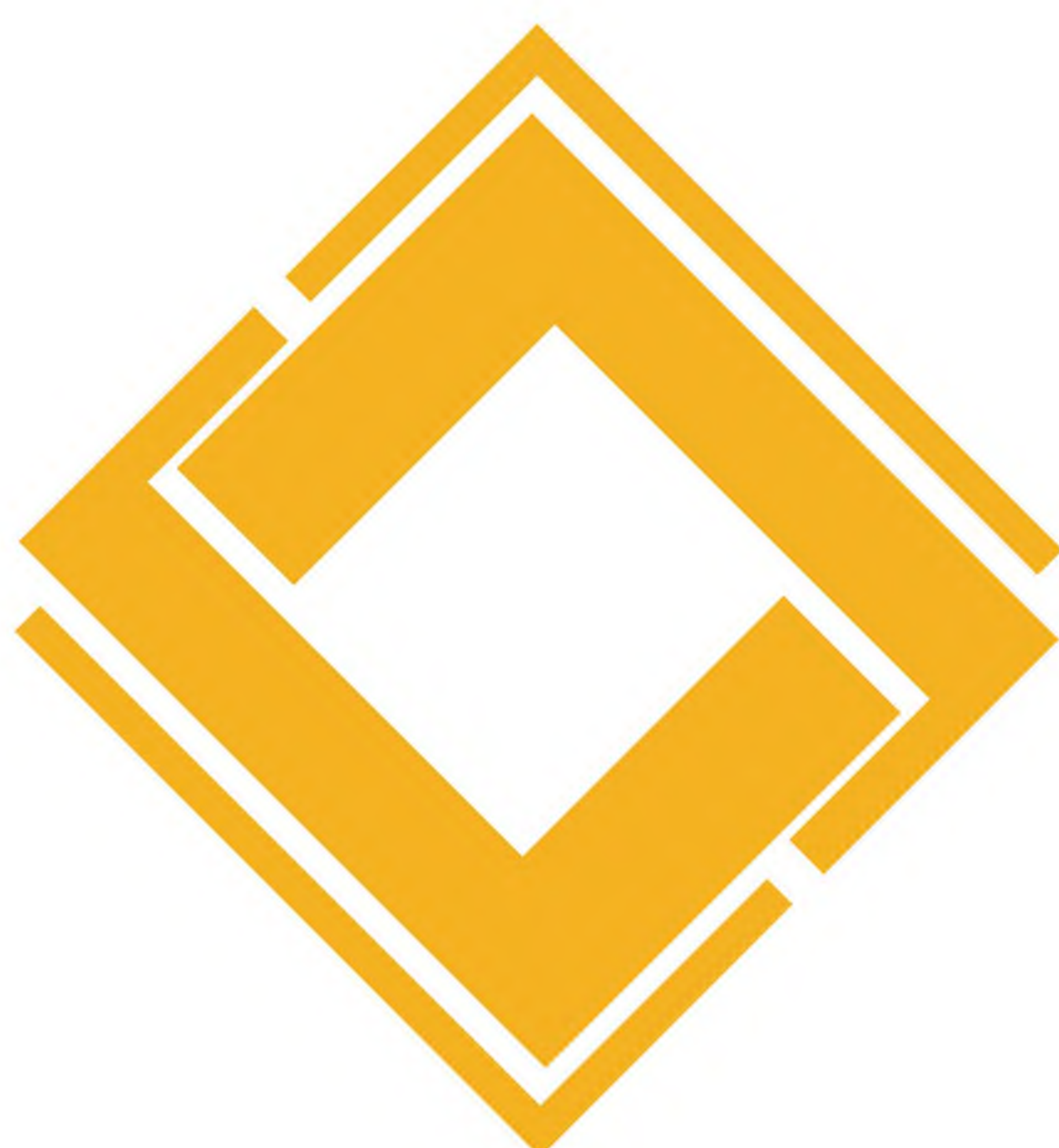
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gen:LOCK

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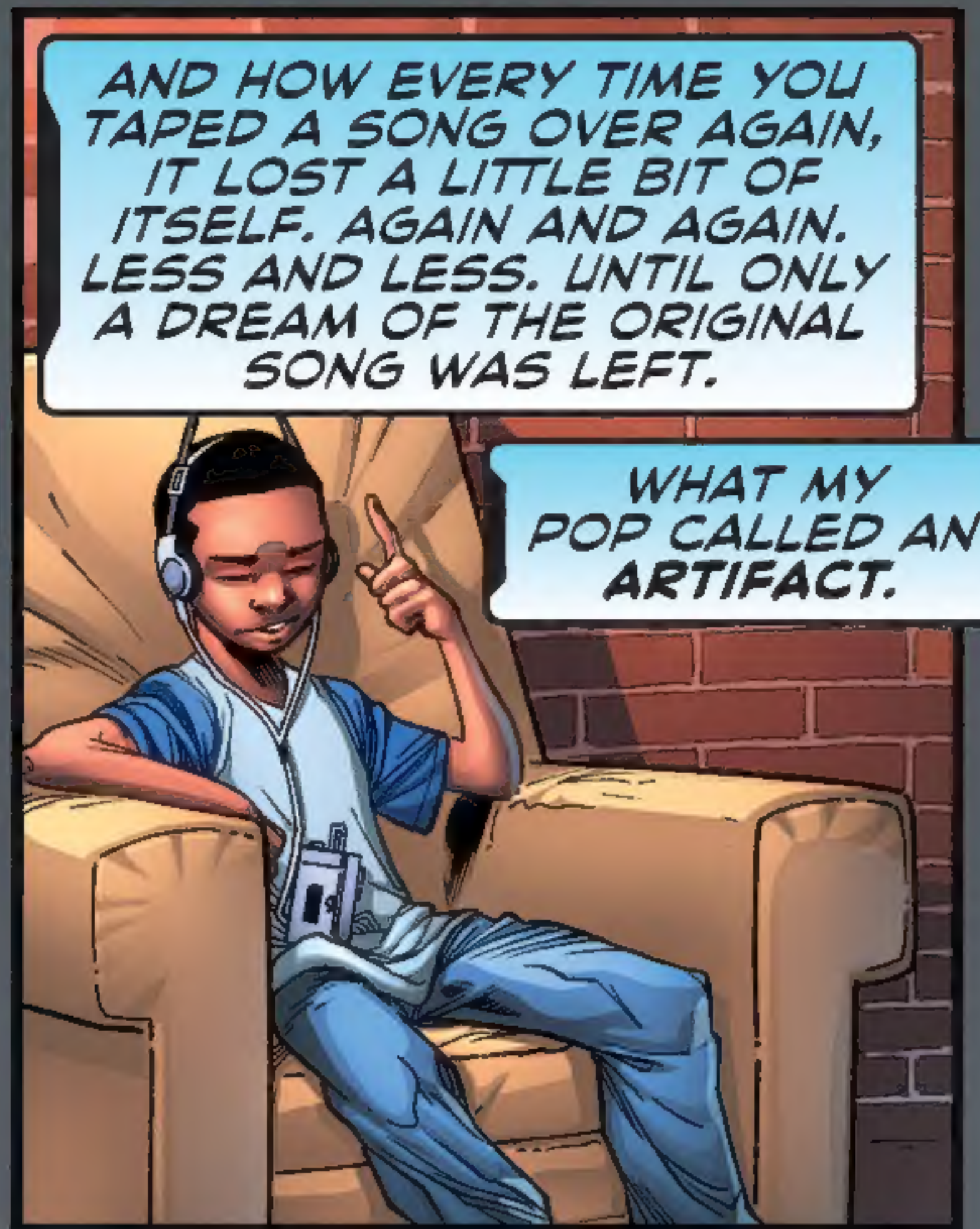


MY POPS
USED TO MAKE
MIXTAPES.



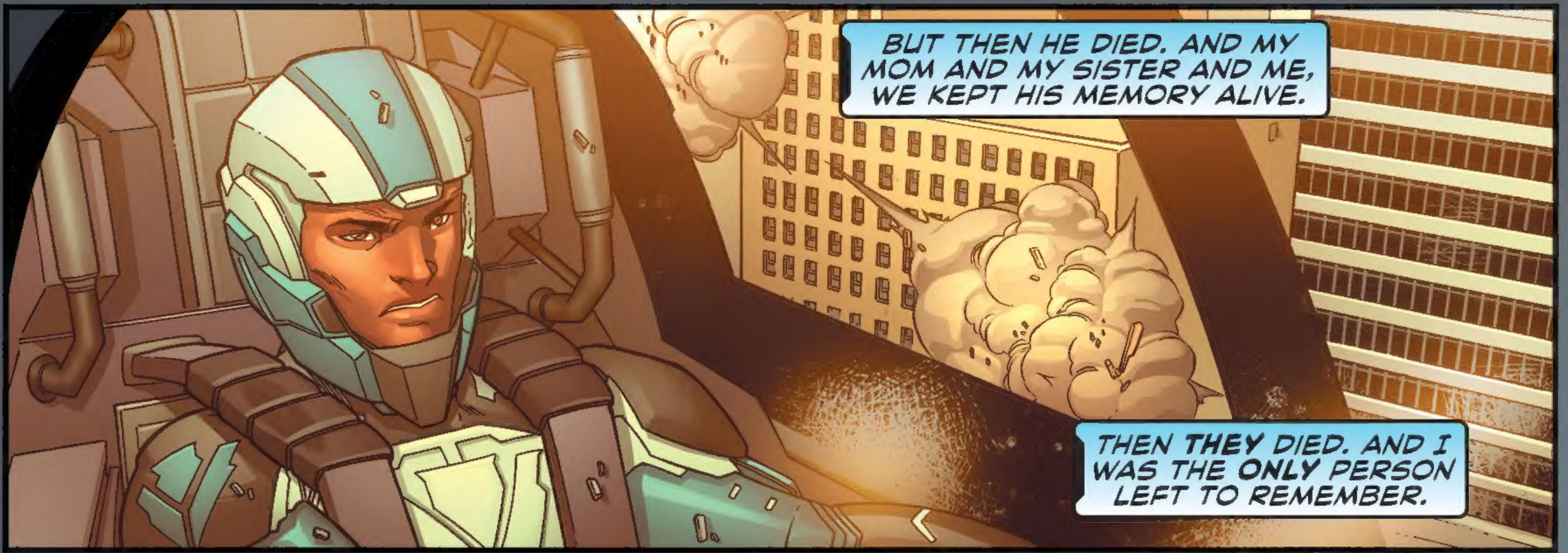
EVEN AFTER MUSIC
WENT DIGITAL, AFTER THEY
STOPPED MAKING TAPES AT
ALL, HE'D SIT THERE WITH
HIS BOOM BOX, TELLING ME
ABOUT EVERY SONG.

HOW THEY FIT
TOGETHER. HOW
THEY FLOWED.



AND HOW EVERY TIME YOU
TAPED A SONG OVER AGAIN,
IT LOST A LITTLE BIT OF
ITSELF. AGAIN AND AGAIN.
LESS AND LESS. UNTIL ONLY
A DREAM OF THE ORIGINAL
SONG WAS LEFT.

WHAT MY
POP CALLED AN
ARTIFACT.



BUT THEN HE DIED. AND MY
MOM AND MY SISTER AND ME,
WE KEPT HIS MEMORY ALIVE.

THEN THEY DIED. AND I
WAS THE ONLY PERSON
LEFT TO REMEMBER.

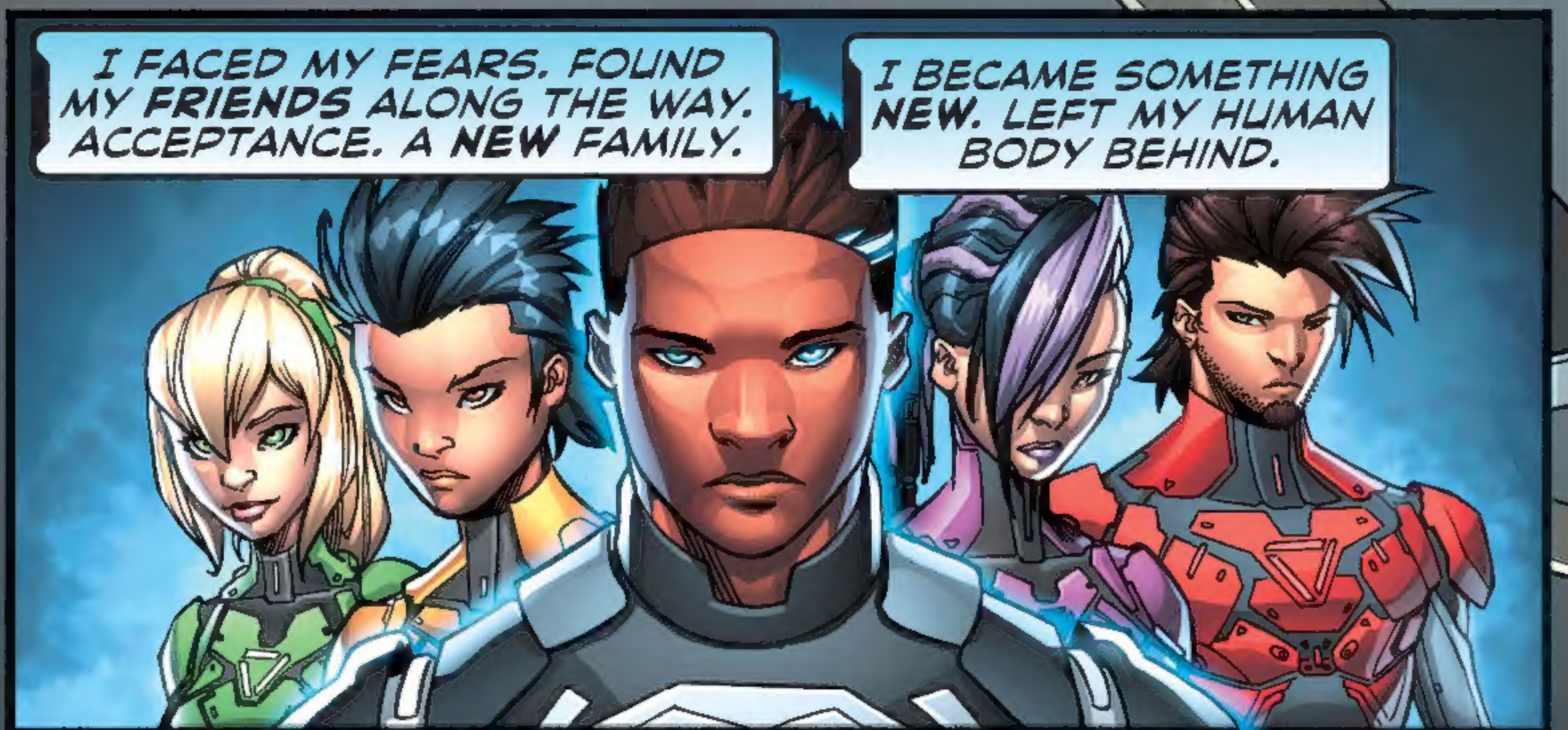


THEN I
NEARLY DIED.

AND TO KEEP ME FIGHTING,
DR. WELLER COPIED ME. A
COPY OF A COPY. OVER AND
OVER. UNTIL MY OWN BODY
DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS.

UNTIL I
WAS HIS
MACHINE.

AND THEN...
HE DIED TOO.



I FACED MY FEARS. FOUND
MY FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY.
ACCEPTANCE. A NEW FAMILY.

I BECAME SOMETHING
NEW. LEFT MY HUMAN
BODY BEHIND.



AND LATELY, WHEN I
THINK ABOUT THE OLD
CHASE--THE ONE WITH
THE BODY, THE GIRL,
THE FAMILY?

HE'S
STARTING
TO FEEL
LIKE AN
ARTIFACT.

ARE
YOU EVEN
LISTENING,
CHASE?

siege:ENGINES

COLLIN KELLY and JACKSON LANZING writers
CARLO BARBERI pencils WALDEN WONG inks
PROTOBUNKER colors TOM NAPOLITANO letters
DAN MORA cover
ANDREW MARINO editor



SORRY, YAZ. THE AIR OUTSIDE'S GETTING CHOPPY. GUESS I'M STILL GETTING USED TO FLYING WITH MY HOLON BODY OUT **THERE** WHILE I LISTEN WITH MY MIND IN **HERE**.

IT'S NOT THAT **SIMPLE**, VALENTINA. THE UNION HAS PUT AN ENTIRE POLITY ZONE UNDER NAVAL BLOCKADE.

INTERFERING MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK THE SIEGE.

WHICH THE **LOCALS** MAY NOT APPRECIATE.

AND WHO ARE THE **LOCALS**, EXACTLY?

GOOD THING WE DON'T WORK FOR THE VANGUARD ANYMORE. LET'S GET OUR HOLONS ON THE GROUND.

WELL, THAT'S WHERE THIS GETS **REALLY** COMPLICATED.



JAPAN.*

YOU WANT ME TO RETURN TO **JAPAN**.

**KAZU IS SPEAKING JAPANESE, BUT THANKS TO EVERYONE'S UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR, WE CAN ALL COMMUNICATE TOGETHER! --ANDREW*



IS THAT SO BAD, KAZU? SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, SEE YOUR FAMILY?

YOU DON'T KNOW **WHAT** YOU'RE SAYING.

THEN TELL US. SHARE, MAN. WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO GO BACK?



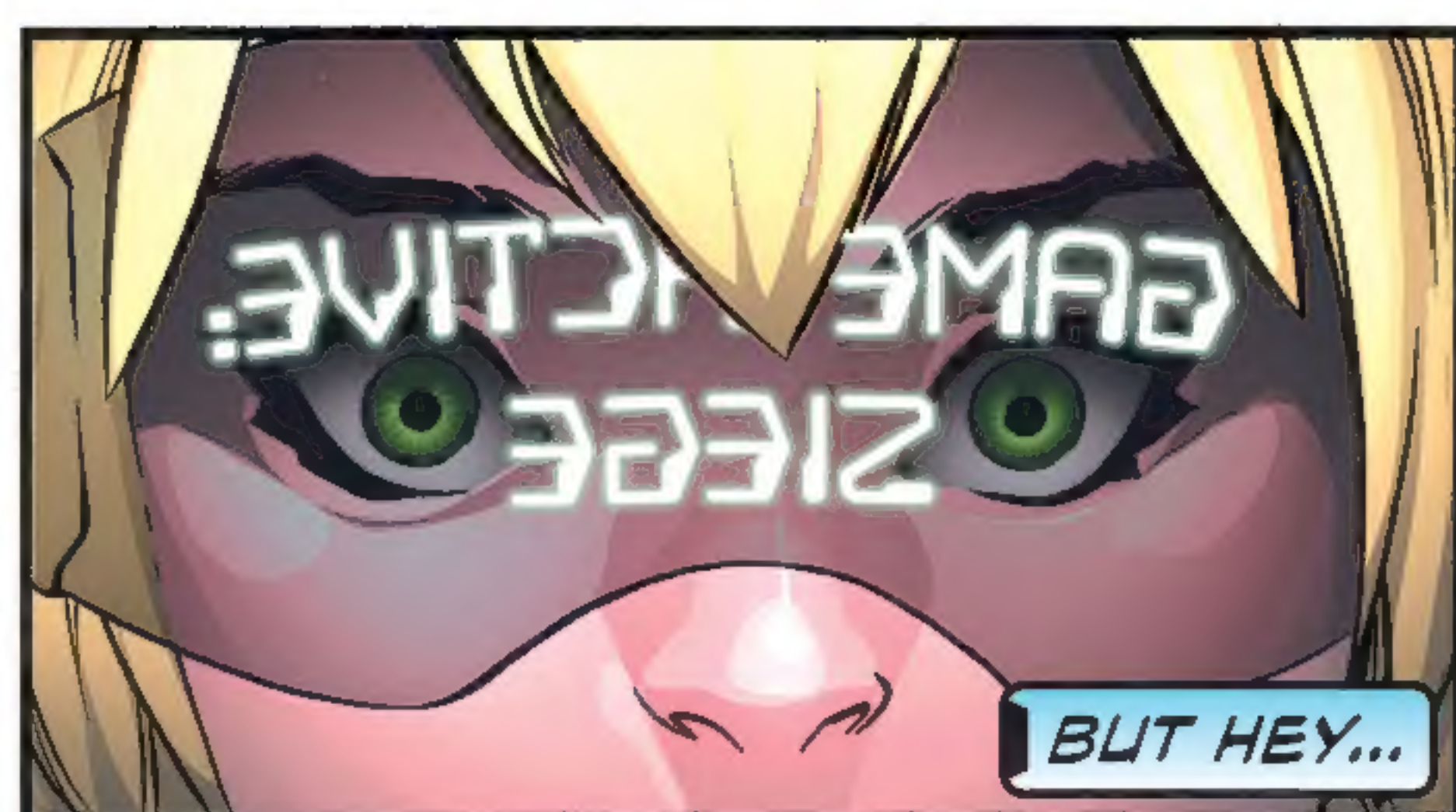
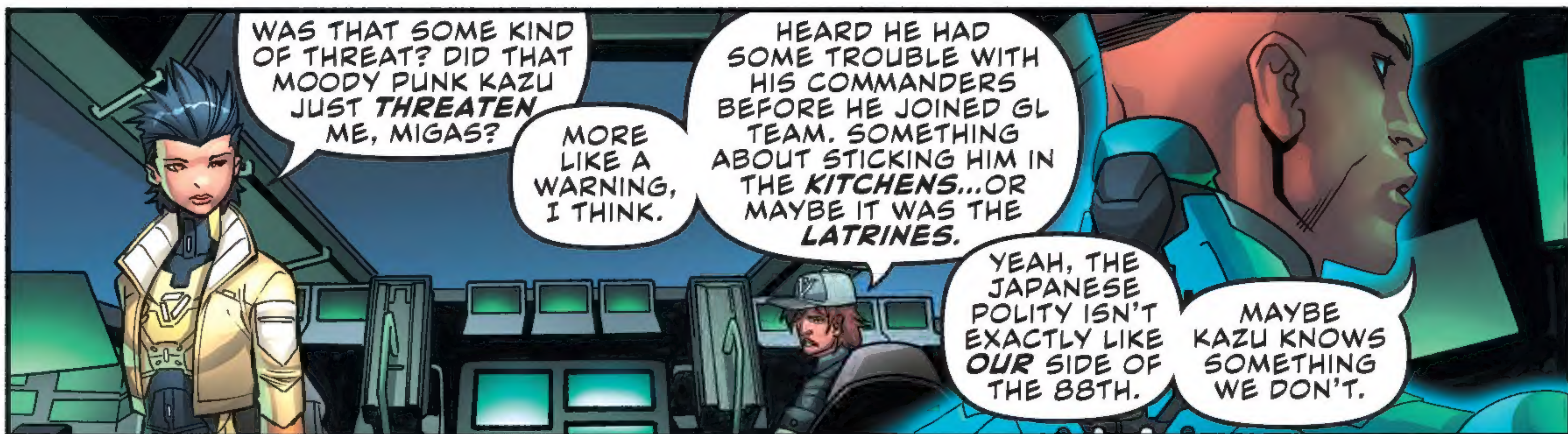
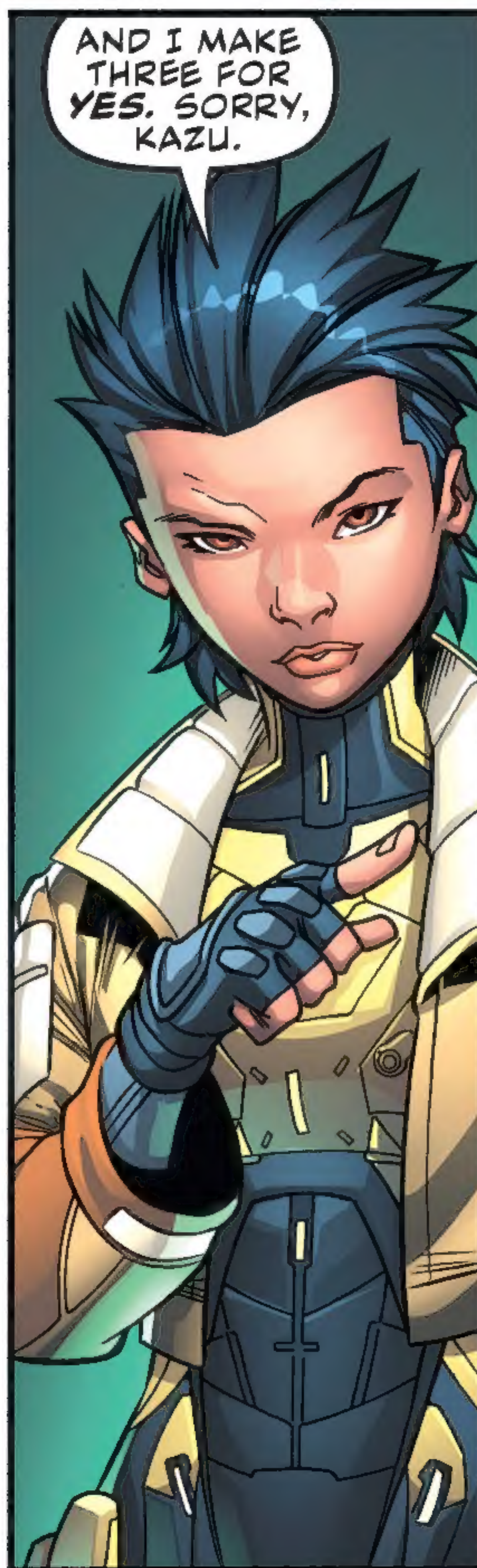
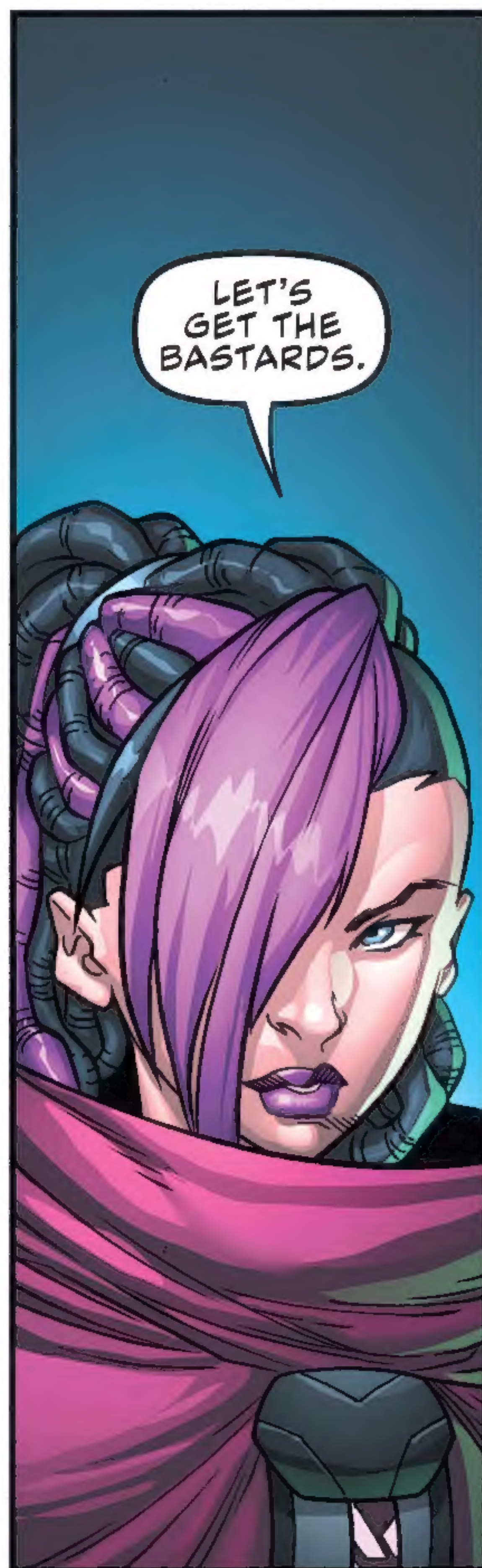
SO, YAZ, IS THIS YOUR **ORDER**, OR **WHAT**?

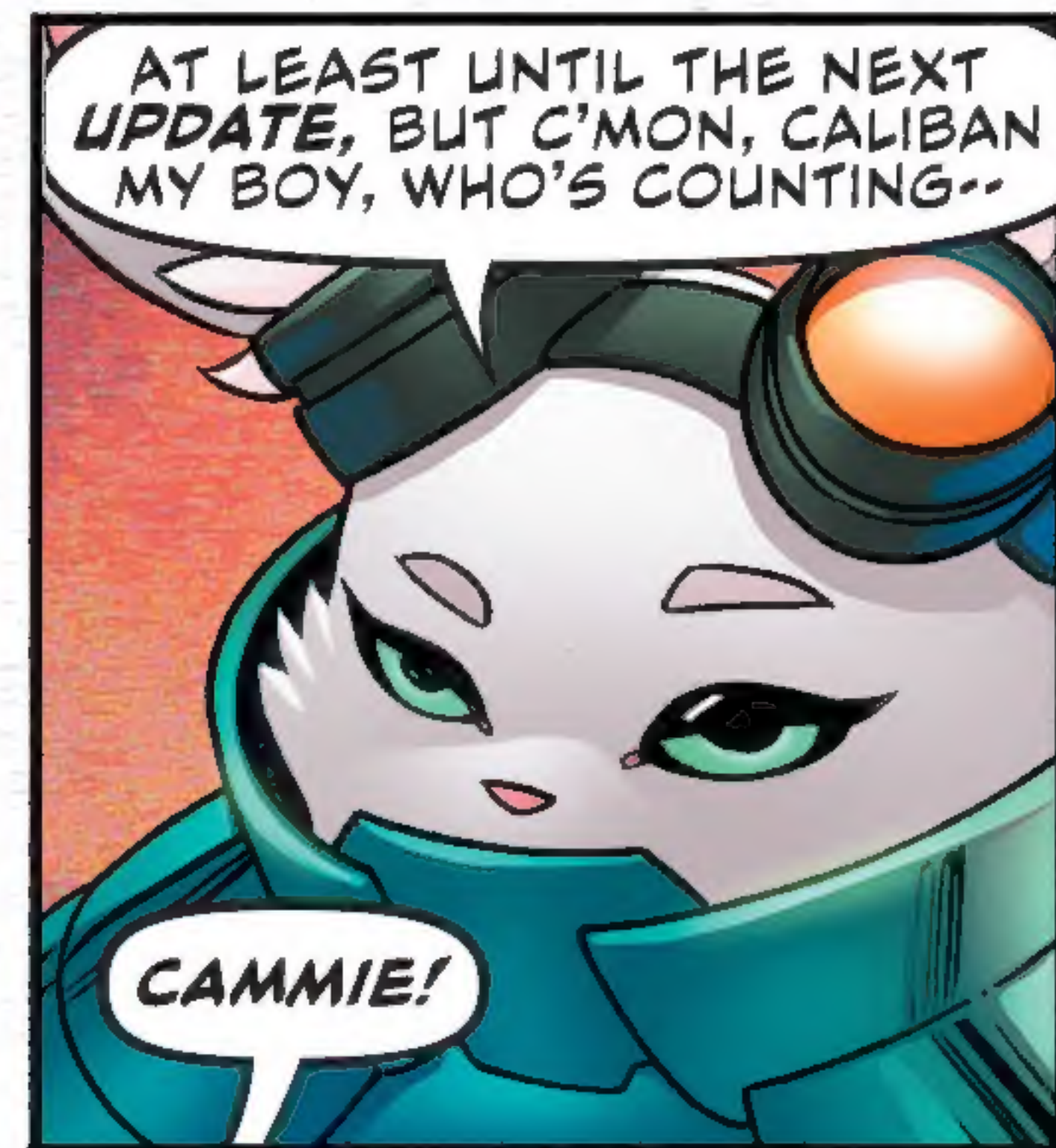
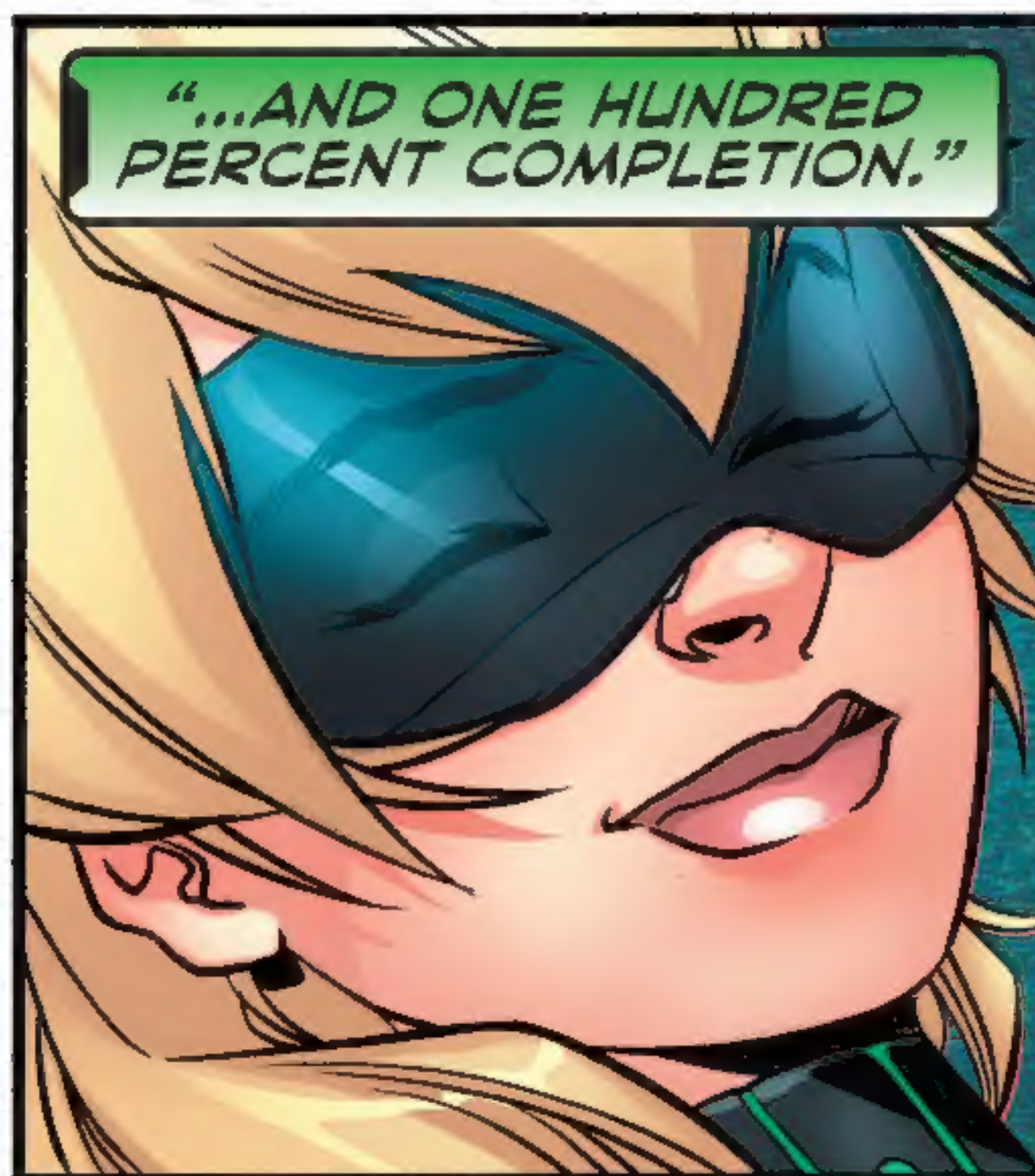
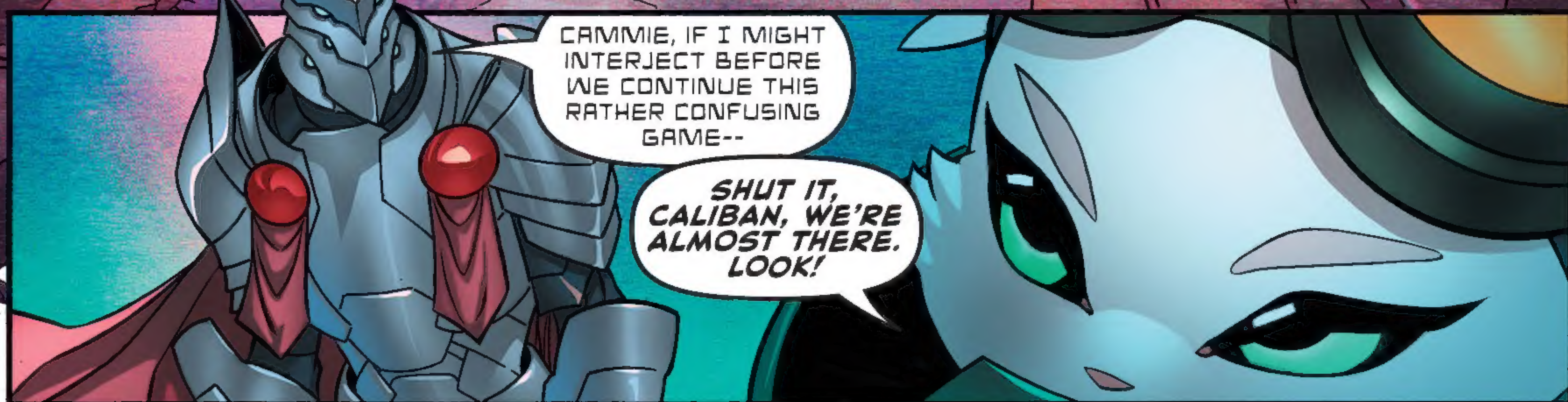
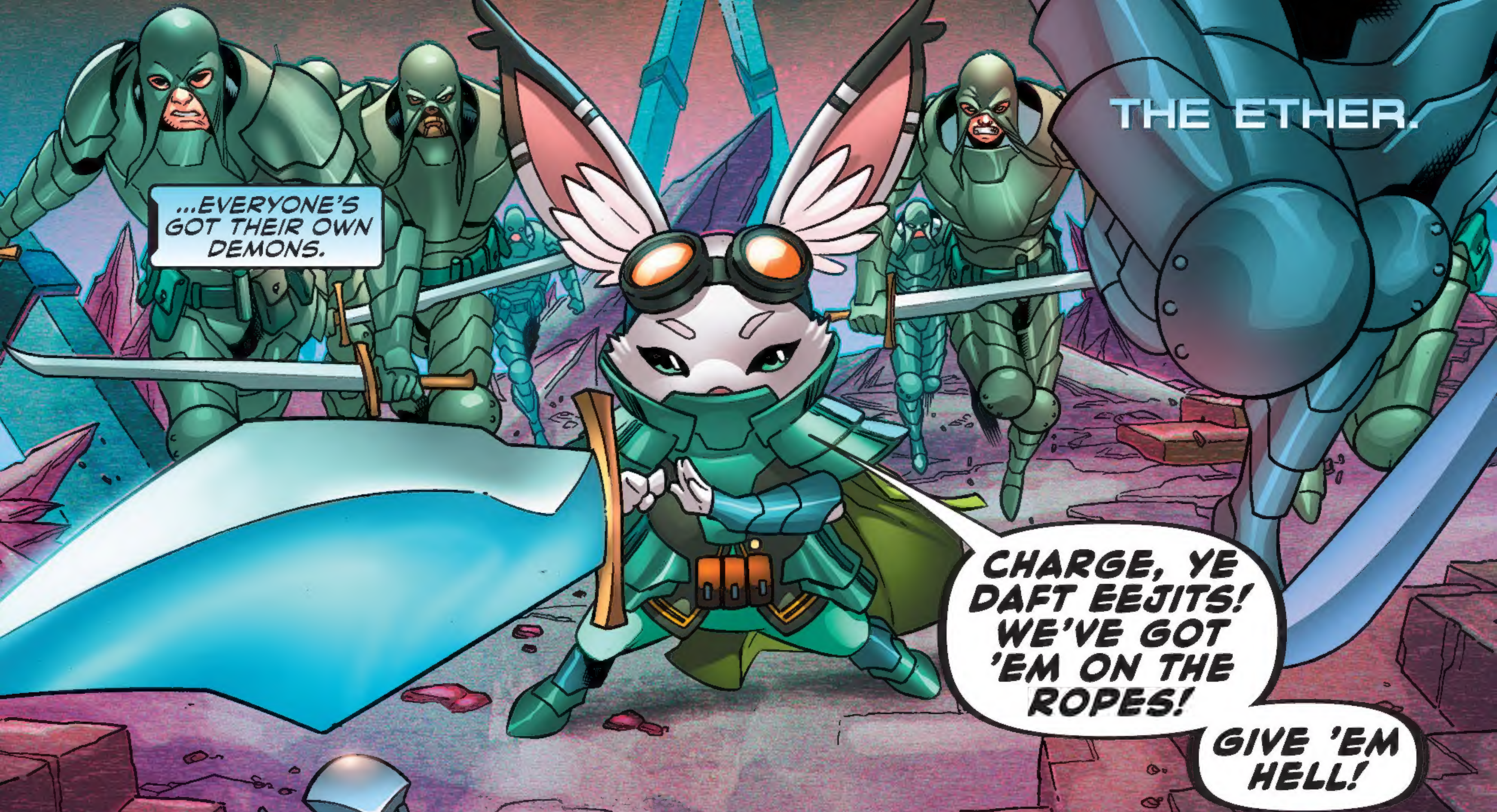
I DON'T DO **ORDERS**, KAZU. I'M NOT DR. WELLER, AND THIS ISN'T SOME UNION CAMP.

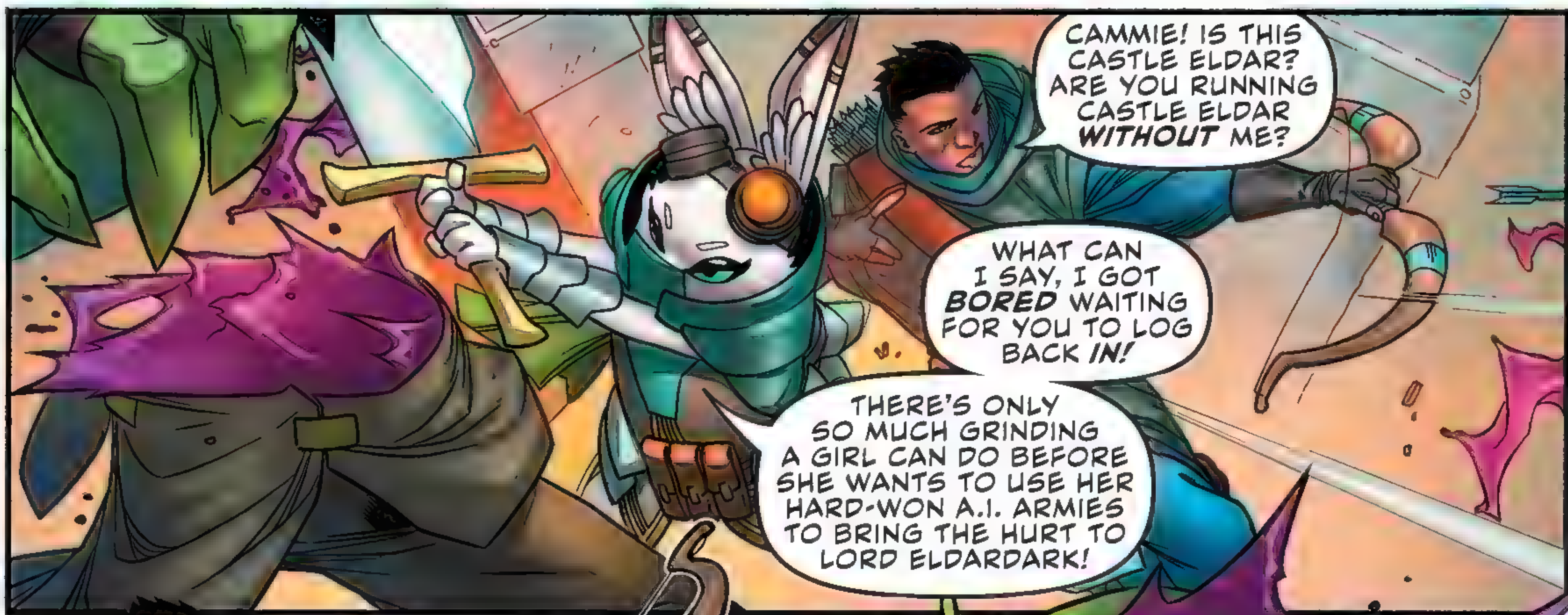


THIS IS **GEN:LOCK TEAM**.

WE VOTE.







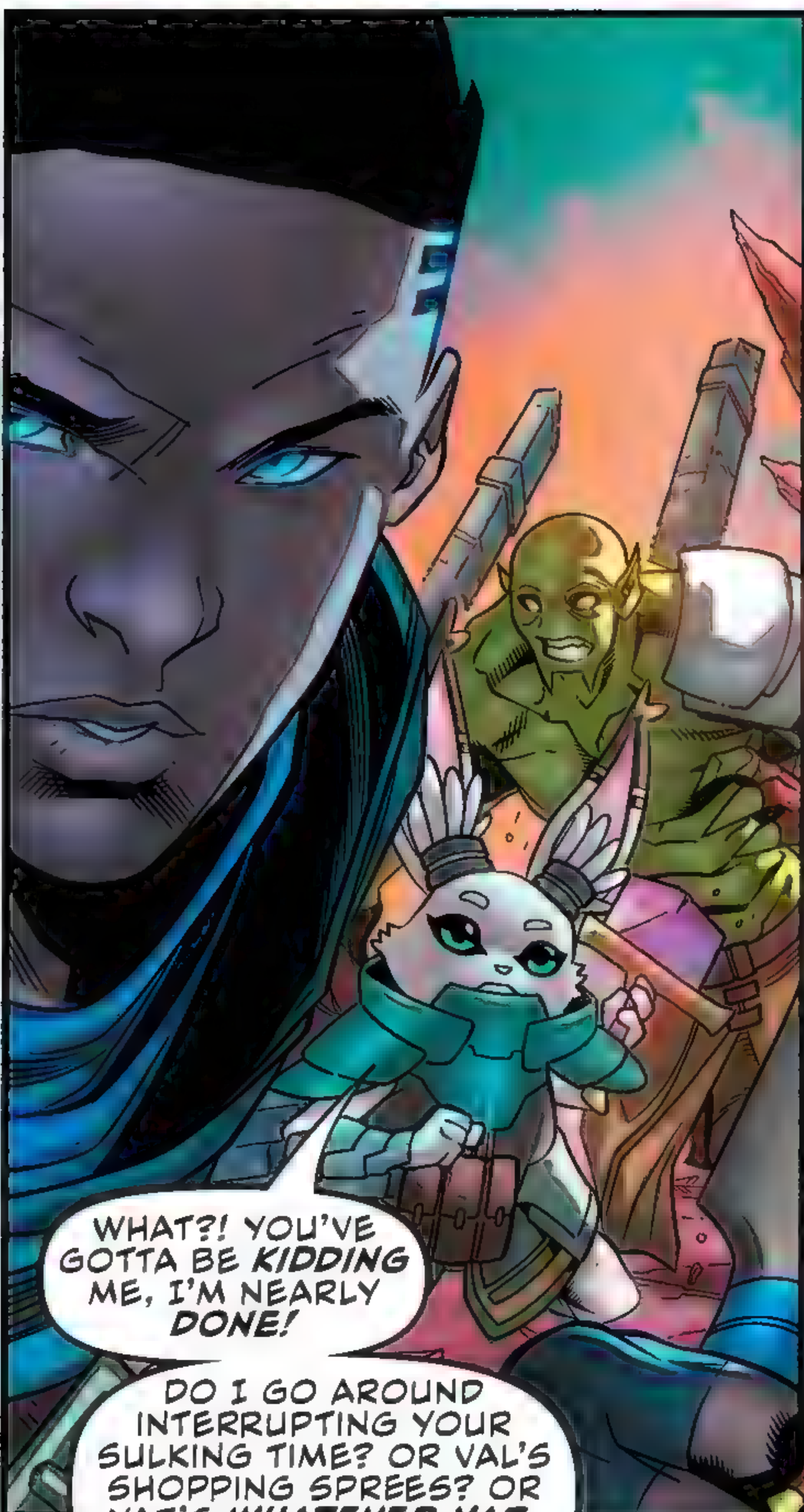
CAMMIE! IS THIS CASTLE ELDAR? ARE YOU RUNNING CASTLE ELDAR WITHOUT ME?

WHAT CAN I SAY, I GOT **BORED** WAITING FOR YOU TO LOG BACK IN!

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH GRINDING A GIRL CAN DO BEFORE SHE WANTS TO USE HER HARD-WON A.I. ARMIES TO BRING THE HURT TO LORD ELDARDARK!



WELL, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO RUN IT AGAIN. THE UNION'S MOVING ON THE JAPANESE PROTECTION ZONE.



WHAT?! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME, I'M NEARLY **DONE!**

DO I GO AROUND INTERRUPTING YOUR SULKING TIME? OR VAL'S SHOPPING SPREES? OR YAZ'S **WHATEVER-YAZ-DOES-TO-HAVE-FUN TIME?!**



NO, I **DINNAE**. CUZ I'M A **FRIEND**.

I KNOW IT'S NOT FAIR, BUT WHEN DUTY CALLS, WE GOTTA ANSWER.

THAT'S WHAT BEING A **SOLDIER** IS ALL AB--



GAH!



Julian

Chase



So lost...

So alone...

Find...



SYCORAX



DID THAT ELGARHORDE MONSTER JUST TALK TO YA?

THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THAT. I DON'T EVEN THINK THEY'RE PROGRAMMED TO OUTPUT AUDIO--

SYCORAX. HE TOLD ME TO FIND SYCORAX, WHATEVER THE HELL THAT IS.

OH, ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?



SUPER SPECIAL BONUS QUEST!

YEAH... MAYBE. THAT VOICE WAS... FAMILIAR...

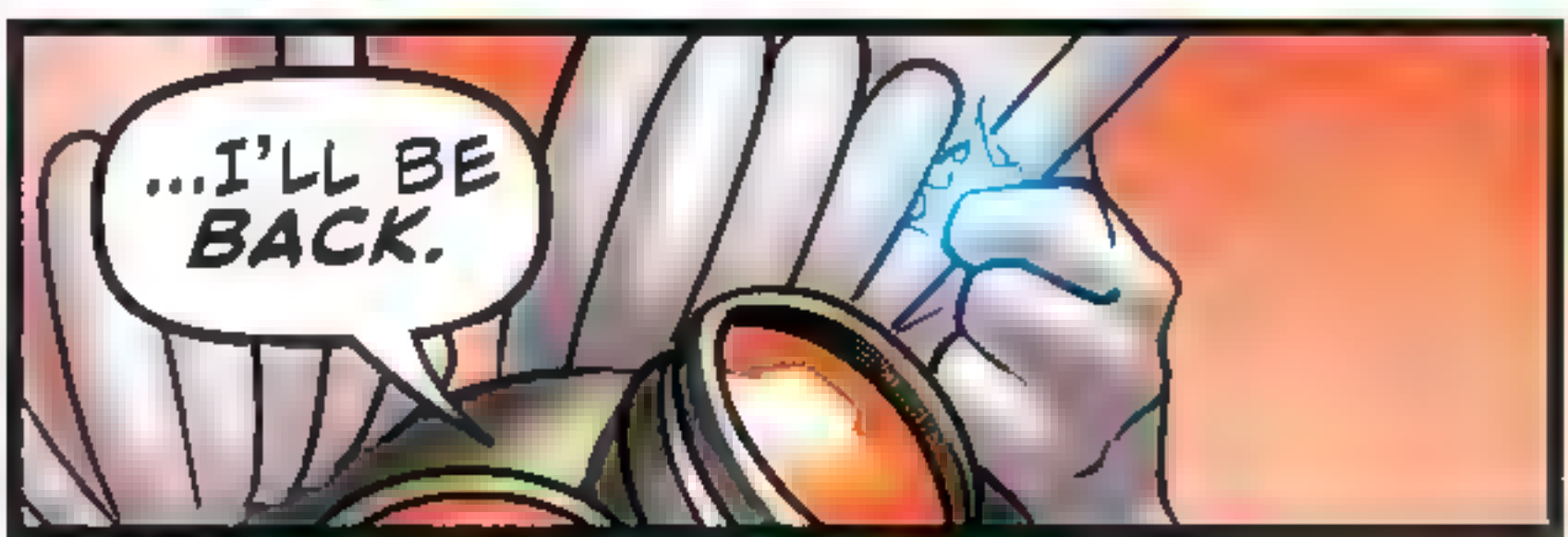


BUT RIGHT NOW, WE GOT AN ACTUAL QUEST TO COMPLETE. SEE YOU IRL.

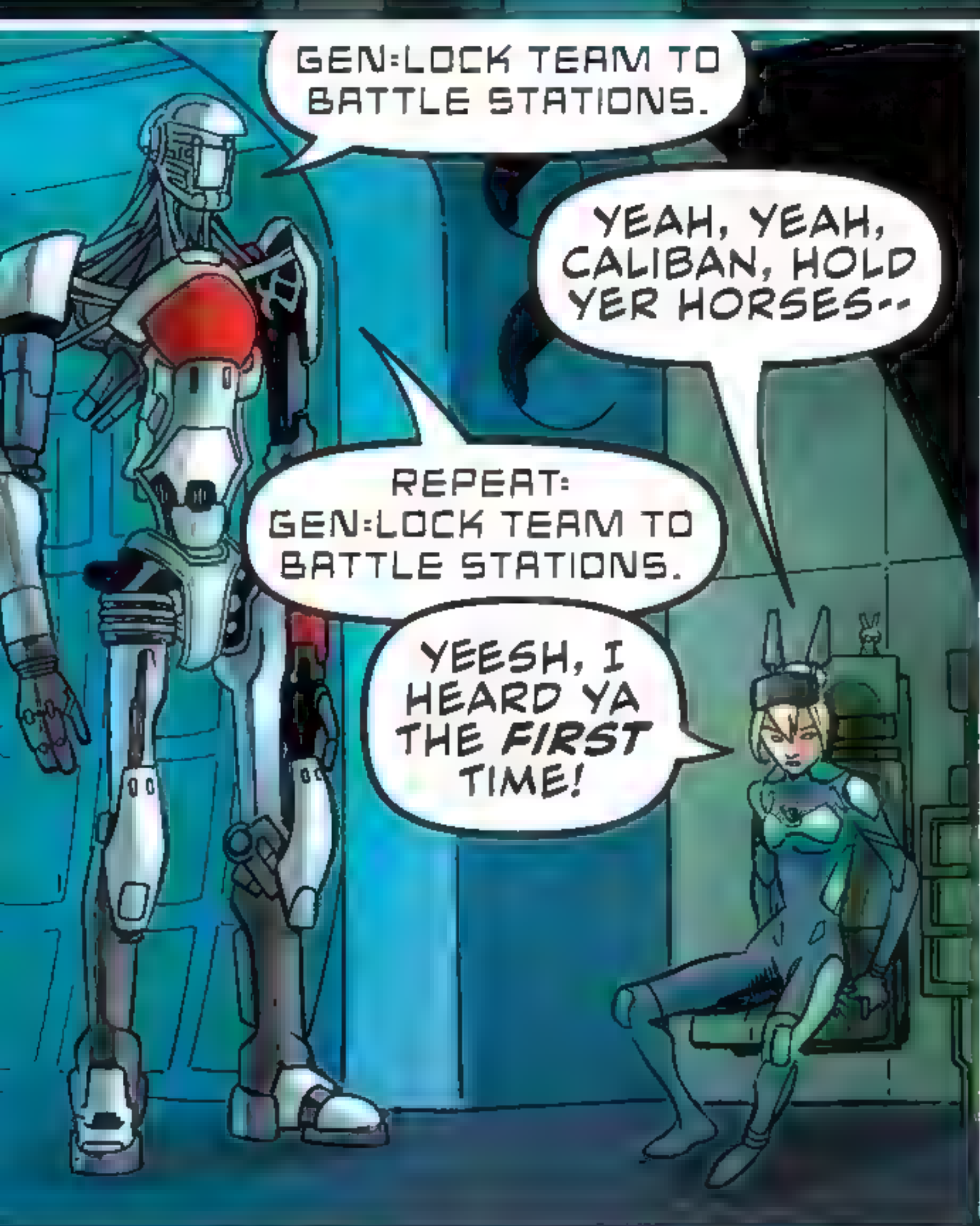
ESIGHE YOU'RE ONE LUCKY CASTLE, ELGAR.

ENJOY YOUR DARK REIGN WHILE IT LASTS.

IN THE WORDS OF EVERYONE'S FAVORITE MAD EVIL TIME-TRAVELIN' REVENGE BOT...



...I'LL BE BACK.



GEN:LOCK TEAM TO
BATTLE STATIONS.

YEAH, YEAH,
CALIBAN, HOLD
YER HORSES--

REPEAT:
GEN:LOCK TEAM TO
BATTLE STATIONS.

YEESH, I
HEARD YA
THE *FIRST*
TIME!

APPROACHING
THE SEA OF JAPAN.
UNION FORCES
DETECTED.

NOT FOR
LONG THEY
WON'T BE!
NUGGET,
STAY!



HOLDON
SYNC ACTIVATING
IN *FOUR*...

BEEP!

OH
COME
ON!

THREE...



TWO...



ONE...

FINALLY.





GEN-LOCK TEAM
DEPLOYED INTO
THEATER.

GIVE
THEM
HELL.



DAMN. YAZ, I
KNOW YOU SAID THE
UNION WAS PULLING
OUT ALL THE STOPS,
BUT I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING
LIKE THIS.



GETTING COLD
FEET, CHASE? I'D
THINK YOU'D BE
HAPPY TO HAVE
COMPANY OUT
HERE.



SOME OF US HAVE
LIVES OUTSIDE OF
WAR, YA KNOW, VAL.



THAT'S ENOUGH.
GL TEAM, WE'VE
NEVER FACED ANYTHING
LIKE THIS BEFORE.
EYES FORWARD!



I TOLD
YOU THIS
WAS A BAD
IDEA!



I'M
DETECTING
HUNDREDS OF
SHIPS, YAZ!

MULTIPLE
WALKERS AND...
WHAT IS THAT
THING?

GEN:LOCK
TEAM. THE
POLITY'S SECRET
WEAPONS.

SO GOOD
OF YOU TO
JOIN US.

I'M READING
NANOTECH
SIGNATURES!

WHATEVER
IT IS, IT'S
POWERING UP!

EVASIVE
ACTIONS!

NOW...

...BE KIND
ENOUGH
TO DIE.

KRA-
KOOON

SHE'S MOVING BEFORE
ANY OF US CAN REACT.
NOT AWAY FROM THE
INCOMING BLAST.

BUT STRAIGHT
INTO IT.

NO
ONE DIES
TODAY!

YAZ HAS MORE HEART
THAN SHE WANTS ANY
OF US TO KNOW.

BUT THAT
DOESN'T MAKE
HER INVINCIBLE.

EVERYONE,
STAY ON
TARGET, I'VE
GOT HER!

ALL RIGHT,
TEAM FALLING
VERY FAST
WITHOUT WINGS,
THAT MEANS
IT'S ON US!

GOOD THING SHE'S
GOT GEN:LOCK TEAM
AT HER BACK.

LET'S SINK SOME
BATTLESHIPS.

THIS GAME
BRINGS ME
MUCH MORE
JOY THAN I
RECALL.

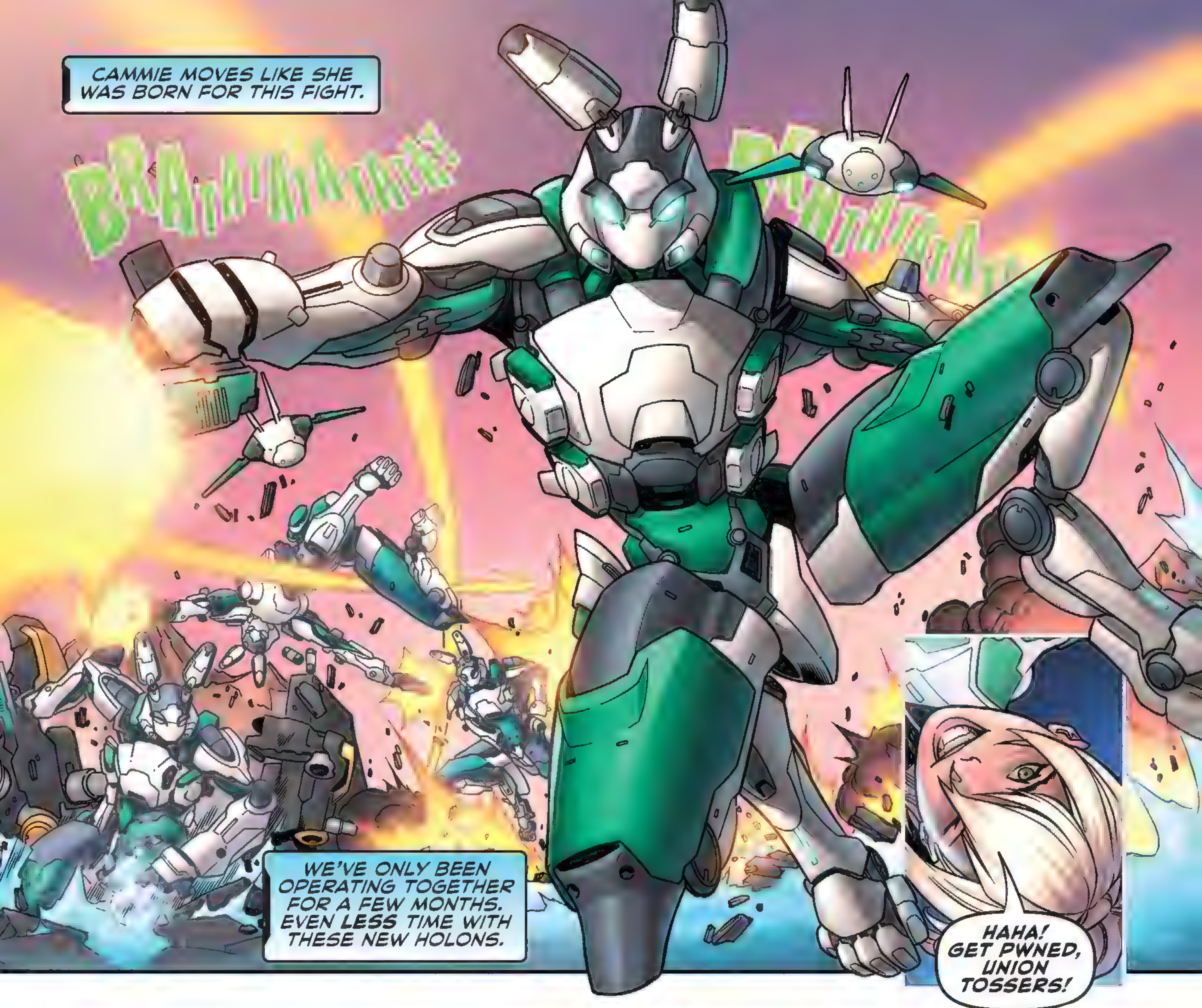
KIYA!

B
RAK

SH
RANG

CRUNCH

CAMMIE MOVES LIKE SHE
WAS BORN FOR THIS FIGHT.



WE'VE ONLY BEEN
OPERATING TOGETHER
FOR A FEW MONTHS.
EVEN LESS TIME WITH
THESE NEW HOLONS.

HAHA!
GET PWNED,
UNION
TOSSERS!



YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT
FROM HOW EFFORTLESS
VALENTINA MAKES IT
LOOK. HER BODY MIGHT
BE IN THE RENEGADE...

...BUT HER MIND
IS IN THE HOLON.

WHICH MEANS
SHE'S IN THE
FIGHT.

WHOEVER
SUGGESTED THIS,
THANK YOU.

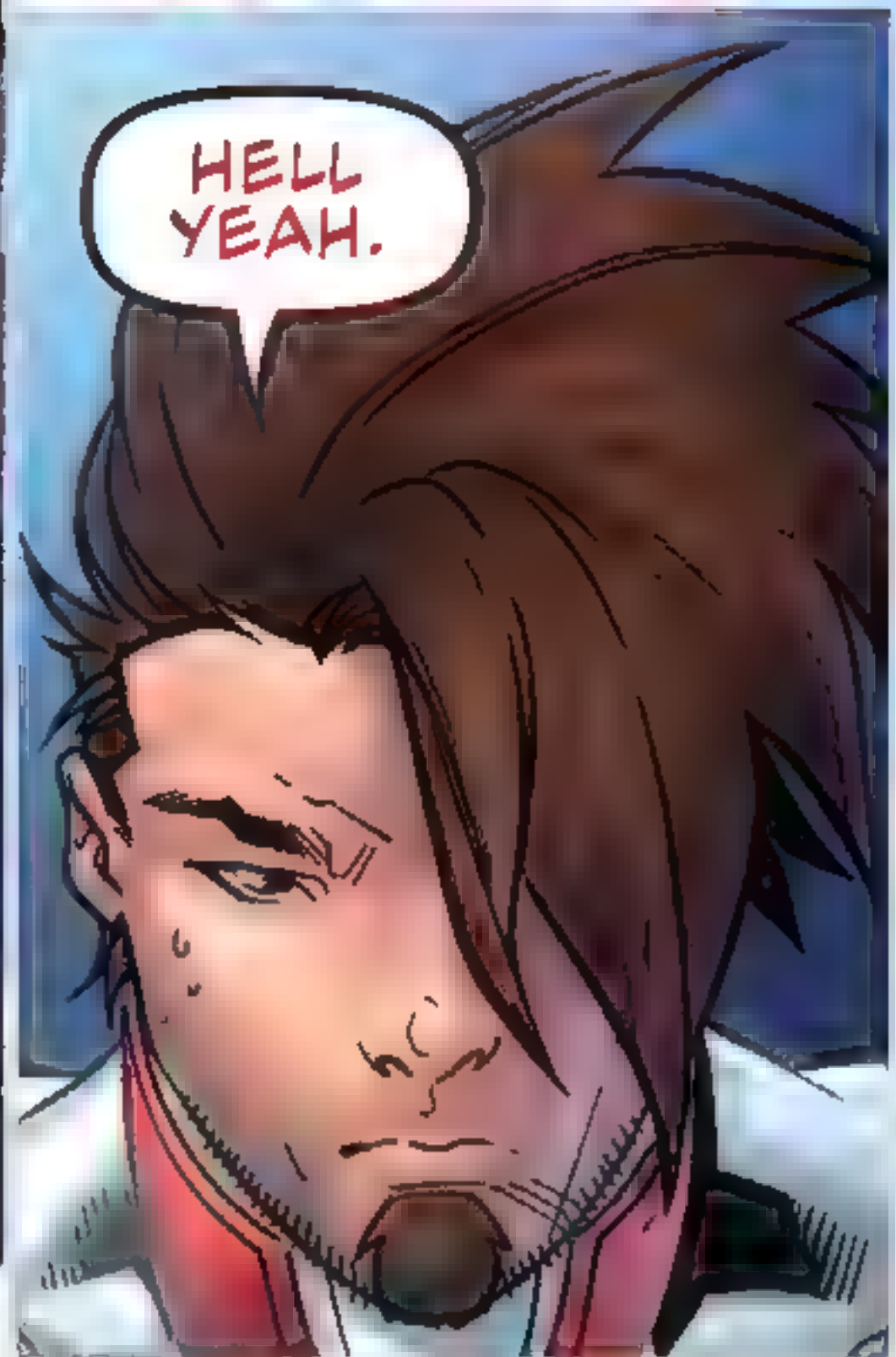
STRETCHING
MY LEGS FEELS
WONDERFUL.



I LIVE IN THE MINDFRAME NOW, BUT WHILE WE'RE IN THE FIELD, WE SHARE IT.

I KNOW HOW POWERFUL KAZU FEELS. I CAN FEEL HIS POWER IN MY OWN HEART.

ROBOSHOGUN.



HELL YEAH.



I'VE GOT YOU, YAZ.



...IS STEEL.

AM I... FLYING?

FALLING, YAZ. GOT YOURSELF SHOT. DO YOU COPY?

COPY. REBOOTING SYSTEMS, AIRBORN IN THREE... TWO...

HM. FAR MORE RESILIENT THAN THE POLITY'S USUAL TEPID FORCES.

FIRE AGAIN.

IN THAT SECOND, I CAN FEEL IT BECOME REAL FOR THEM.

BUWA00000M

OR WHAT PASSES FOR A HEART, ANYWAY. I DON'T HAVE A HEART ANYMORE. WHAT I'VE GOT IS STRONGER. WHAT I'VE GOT...

IN THAT SECOND, WE ALL REALIZE OUR MISTAKE.



THE
RENEGADE!



MIGAS?!



OUR
BODIES.



NO
NO
NO

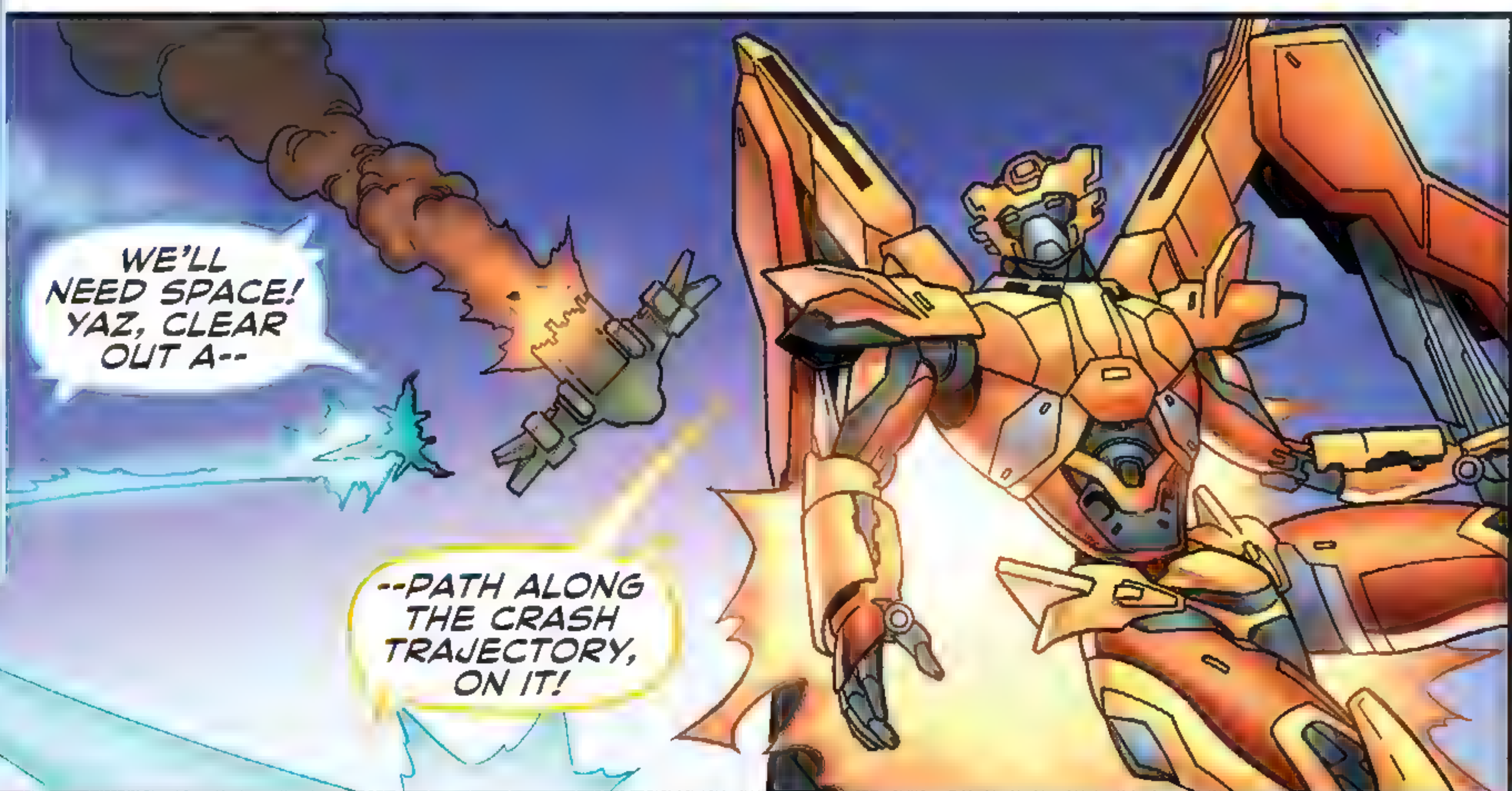


UNLIKE ME...

...THEY DO
HAVE HEARTS.



AND THERE'S NO
WAY IN HELL I'M
GONNA LET THEM
STOP BEATING.



WE'LL
NEED SPACE!
YAZ, CLEAR
OUT A--

--PATH ALONG
THE CRASH
TRAJECTORY,
ON IT!

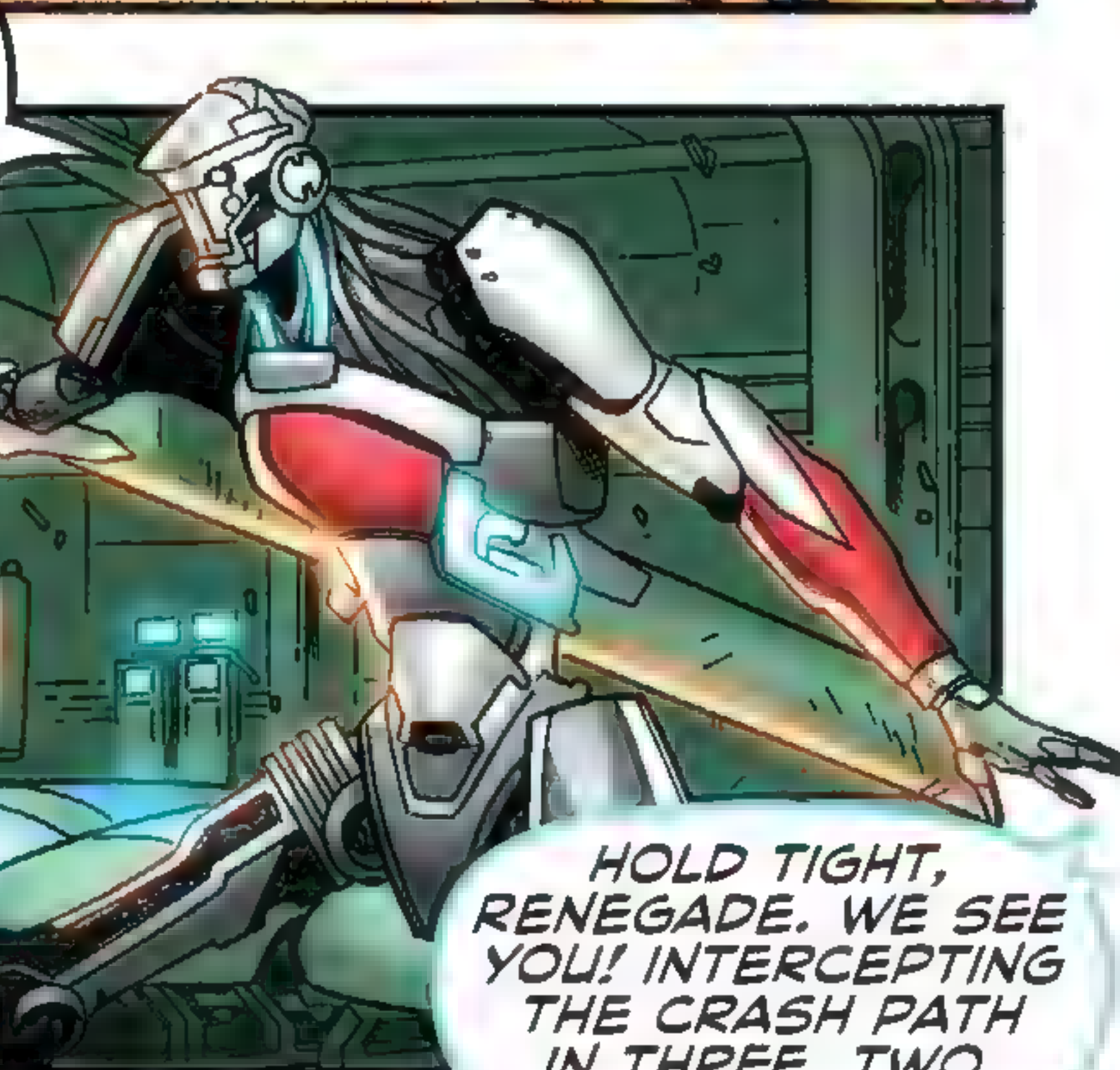


CALIBAN, THE
AUTOPILOT'S FAILING
AND I AM REALLY NOT
A PILOT! GET UP
HERE!

UNFORTUNATELY, ENGINEER
GARZA, I MUST REMAIN IN THE
HOLD TO ENSURE GEN:LOCK
TEAM'S BIOMETRICS
REMAIN **STRONG**.

PLEASE DO
YOUR BEST TO
MAKE SURE
WE DO NOT
CRASH.

UM,
WHAT?!
DIDN'T YOU
JUST HEAR ME
SAY I AM
NOT A--



HOLD TIGHT,
RENEGADE. WE SEE
YOU! INTERCEPTING
THE CRASH PATH
IN THREE, TWO,
ONE--



CLEAR A
PATH, GL! WE'RE
EXTRACTING!

NO, WE
CAN FINISH
THIS!

NOT
WITHOUT
RISKIN' OUR
SKIN, KAZ.

AND
I'M RATHER
PARTIAL TO MY
SKIN, THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH!

GOT A
MOISTURIZER AND
EVERYTHING!

THE JAPANESE POLITY
HAS **FORBIDDEN** RTASA
FROM ENGAGING.

IF WE
INVADE THEIR
AIRSPACE, THEY
WON'T CARE
THAT WE'RE ON
THE SAME
SIDE--

--THEY'LL
SHOOT US OUT
OF THE SKY!

KAZU, TOUCHING DOWN IN JAPAN
WAS **NOBODY'S** PLAN. I'M
SORRY, BUT NOW IT'S
ALL WE HAVE.

IT'S YOUR
HOME. YOU
SERVED WITH THE
MILITARY, YOU
KNOW THEIR
DEFENSES.

WHERE CAN
WE MAKE LANDFALL
THAT'S SAFE?

...NOGIMASAKI.

THE
LIGHTHOUSE AT
NOGIMASAKI.

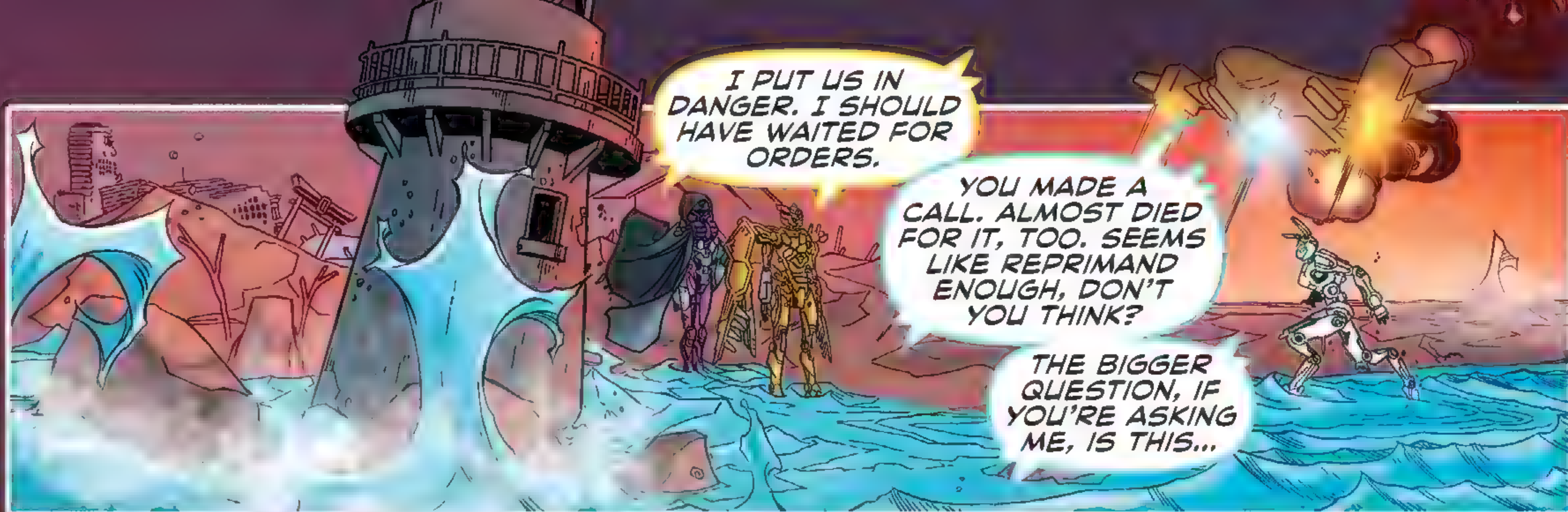
GO!
I'LL CATCH
UP ALONG THE
SEAFLOOR!

GL TEAM,
RETREAT TO KAZU'S
COORDINATES.

THERE'S
NOTHING MORE
WE CAN DO
HERE.

...I'M SORRY.


I'M
SO SORRY,
CHASE.



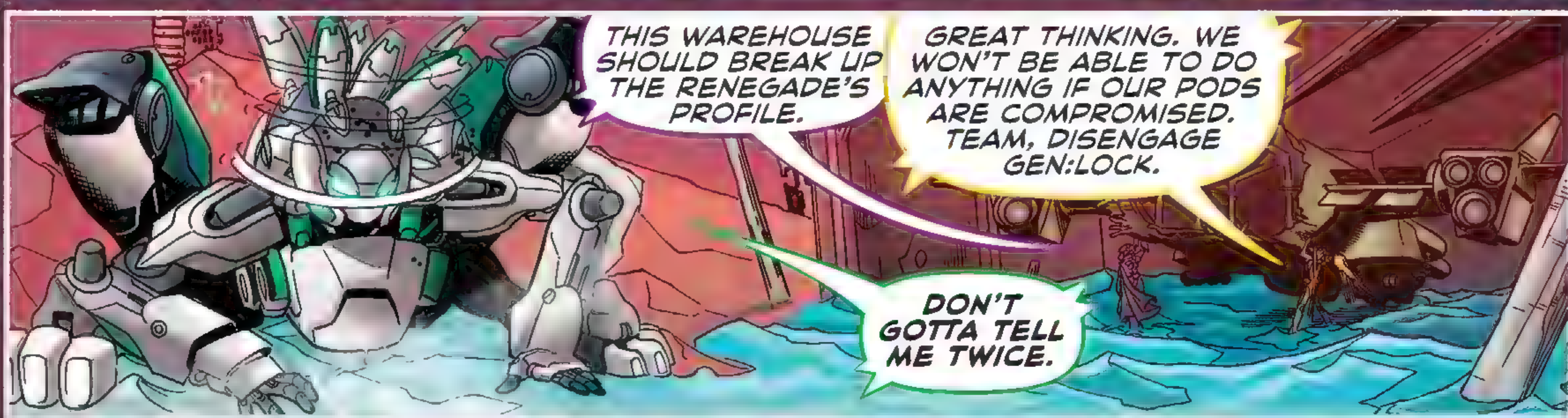
I PUT US IN DANGER. I SHOULD HAVE WAITED FOR ORDERS.

YOU MADE A CALL. ALMOST DIED FOR IT, TOO. SEEMS LIKE REPRIMAND ENOUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?

THE BIGGER QUESTION, IF YOU'RE ASKING ME, IS THIS...



...WHOSE ORDERS WERE YOU WAITING FOR?



THIS WAREHOUSE SHOULD BREAK UP THE RENEGADE'S PROFILE.

GREAT THINKING. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING IF OUR PODS ARE COMPROMISED. TEAM, DISENGAGE GEN:LOCK.

DON'T GOTTA TELL ME TWICE.



ALL OKAY? IS ANYBODY HURT?

ONLY EMOTIONALLY.

BRUISED.

OPERATIONAL.

SOMETHING SOMETHING, ANY LANDING YOU WALK AWAY FROM, RIGHT?

I'M FINE.

...SO... VERY... FINE.



ALL RIGHT.
I'LL SAY
IT.

WHY DID
YOU BRING
US TO CLUB
MED, KAZ?

WHY'S *THIS*
PLACE SAFE,
BUT EVERYWHERE
ELSE IS THE
RED RING OF
DEATH?

...



I
DIDN'T SAY
THIS WAS
SAFE.

KAZU,
IT WAS
IMPLIED.

THERE'S A
WALL AROUND
JAPAN. THIS
IS...A GATE.

WE NEEDED
OPERATIONAL
SPACE, THIS IS
OPERATIONAL
SPACE. YES,
GOOD.

BUT KAZ,
WHAT *DON'T*
WE KNOW?



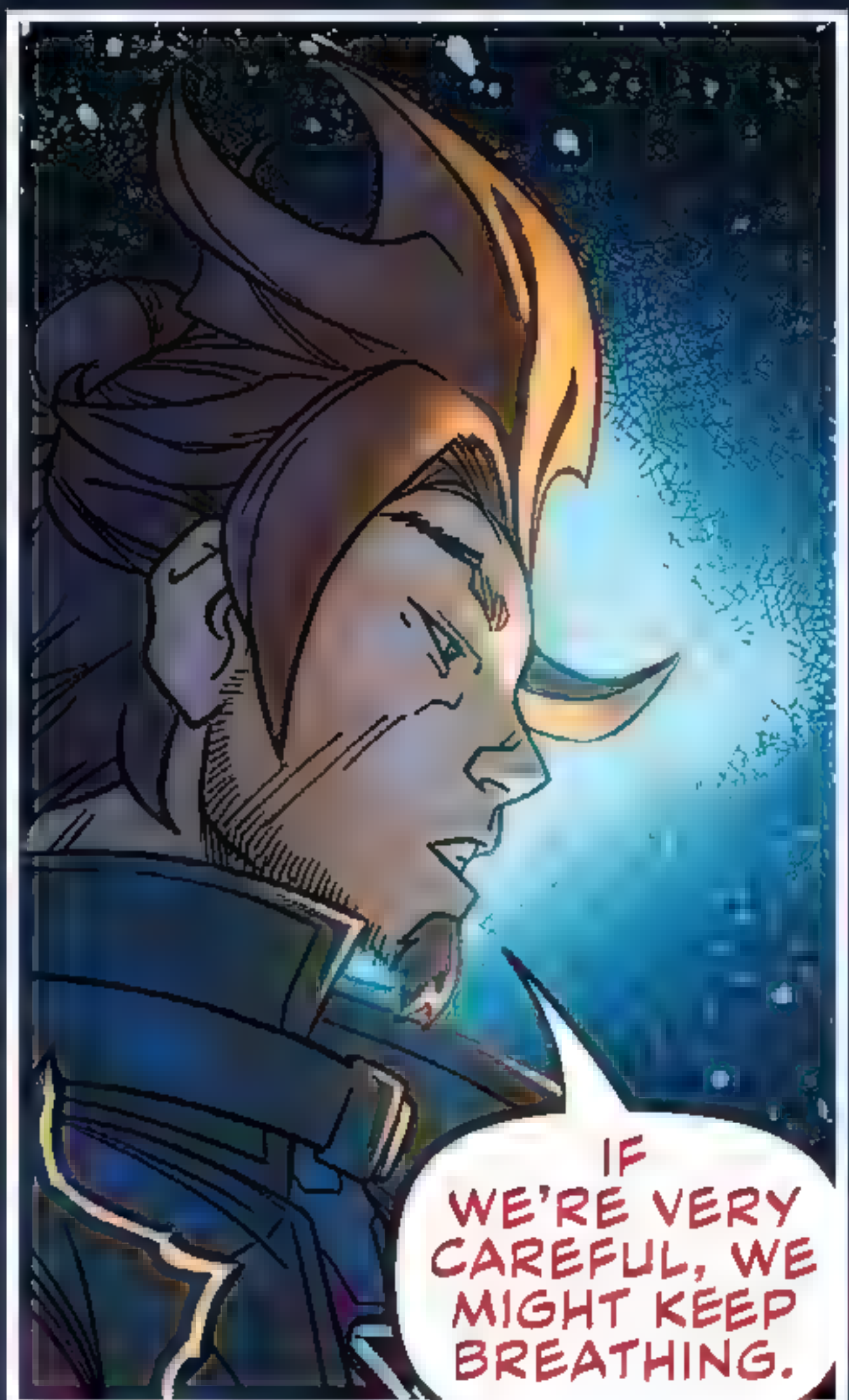
EVERY
GATE HAS
A KEEPER.



THE
JAPANESE
POLITY?
HOW LONG
DO WE
HAVE?

IF OUR
APPROACH WAS
MONITORED,
THEY'LL BE HERE
ANY MINUTE.
MAYBE NO
MINUTES.

UNFORTUNATELY,
YOU ALL NOW HAVE
TO *DEAL* WITH THE
MAN I WAS TRYING
TO PROTECT YOU
FROM.



IF
WE'RE VERY
CAREFUL, WE
MIGHT KEEP
BREATHING.



UNAUTHORIZED
COMBATANTS!
SURRENDER OR BE
DESTROYED!

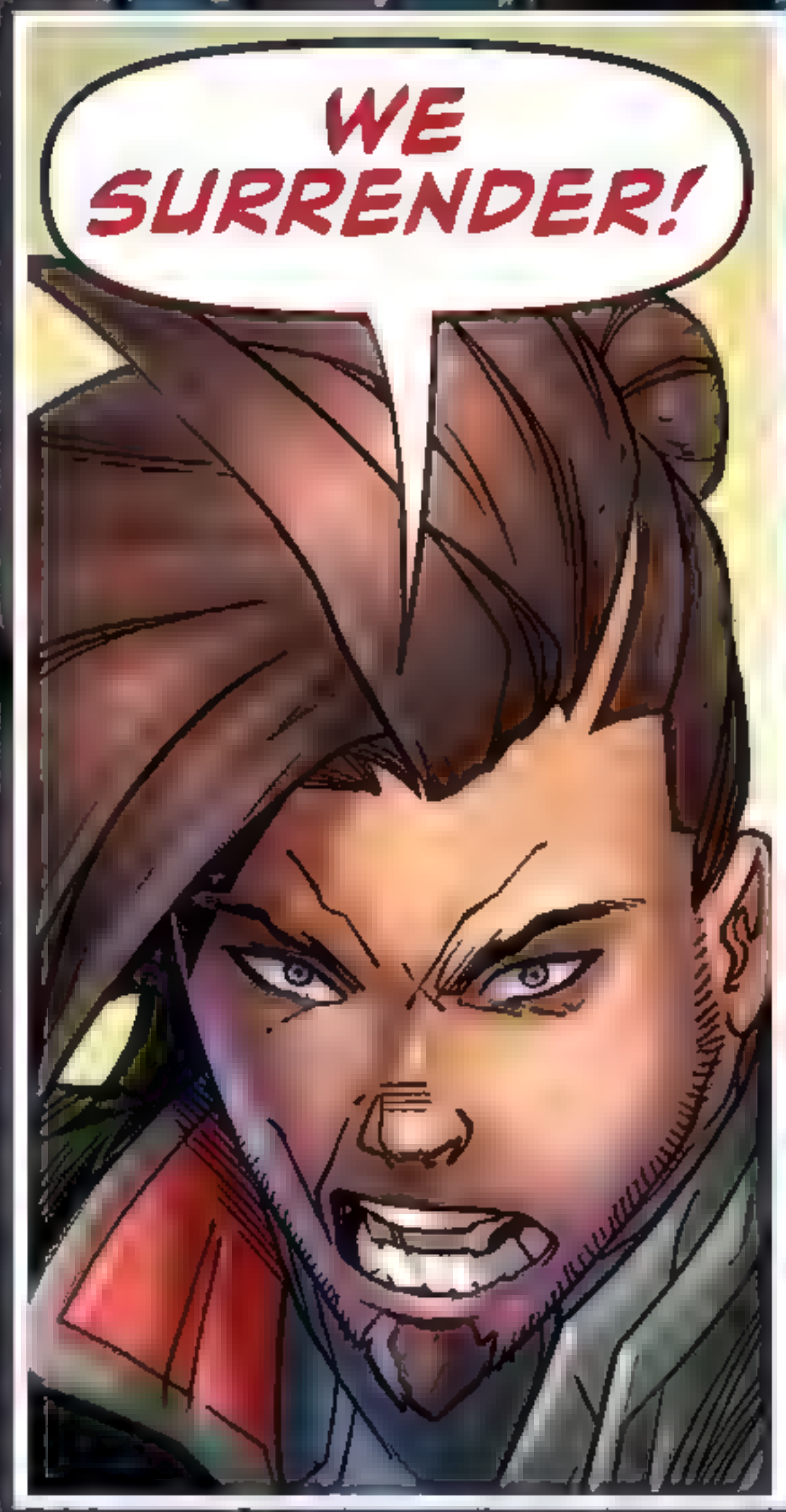
I REPEAT:
ACKNOWLEDGE
SURRENDER OR
BE DESTROYED!



ARE WE...
USING KAZU
AS A UNIVERSAL
TRANSLATOR?

WE ARE.

...THAT IS
SO COOL.



WE
SURRENDER!



GOOD. AN
UNCHARACTERISTICALLY
WISE MOVE.

LISTEN,
YOU'VE GOT THIS
ALL WRONG. WE'RE
GEN:LOCK TEAM,
OPERATING IN
TANDEM WITH
RTASA.

WE
DIDN'T MEAN
TO BREACH
YOUR
AIRSPACE--

--OR TALK
TO YOU AT ALL,
REALLY--

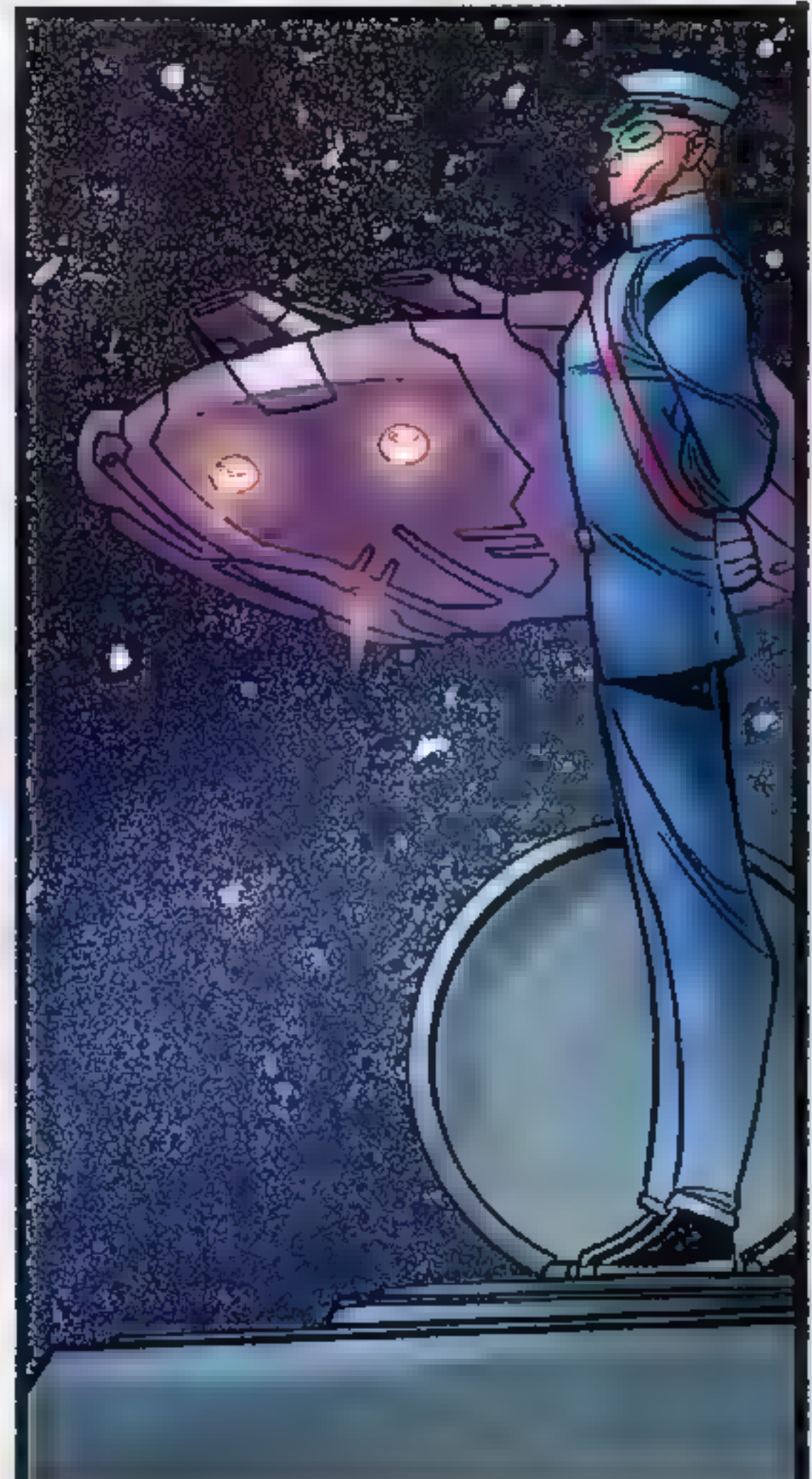
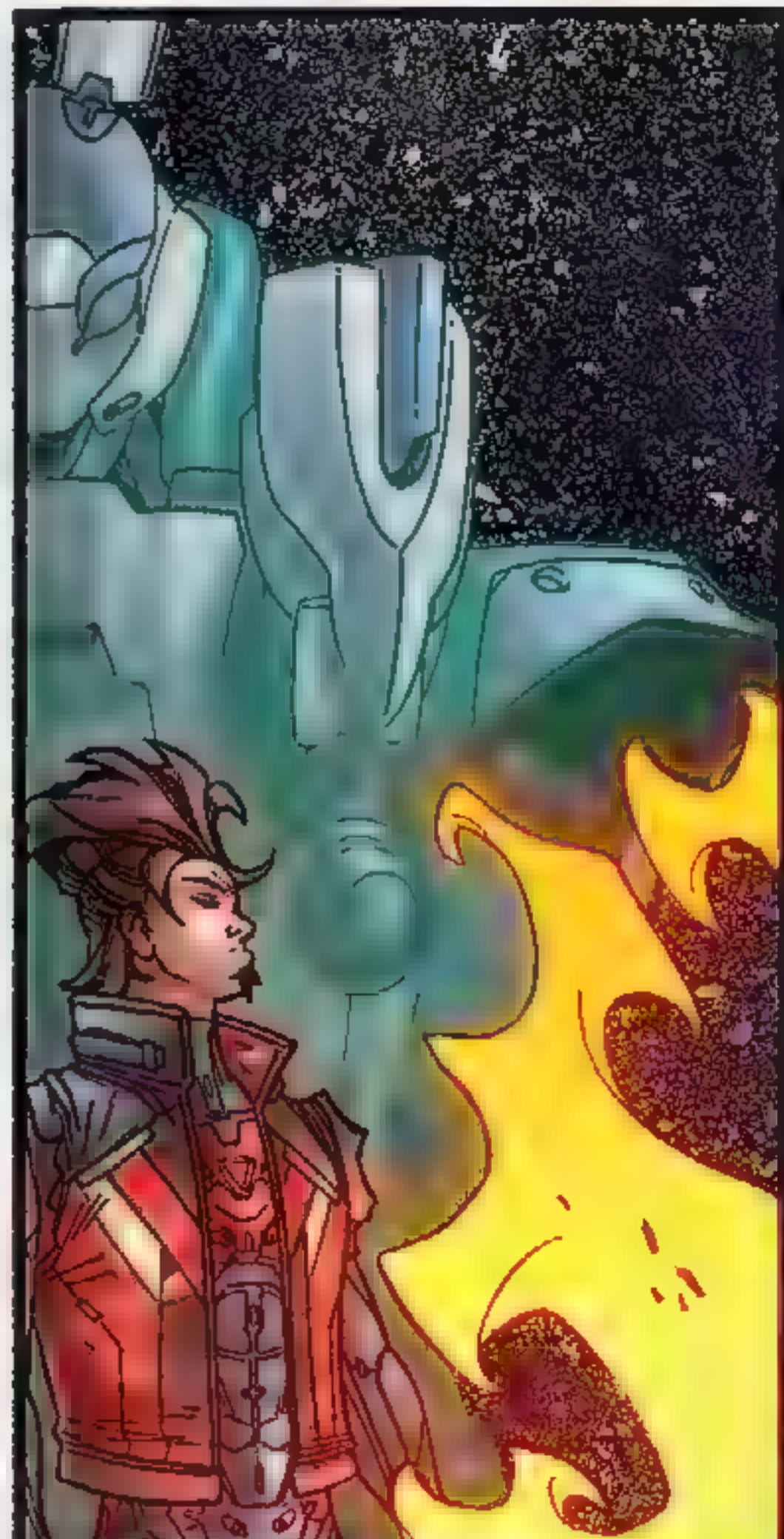
BUT
NOW WE'RE
HERE, ON THE
WRONG SIDE
OF THE
BLOCKADE.

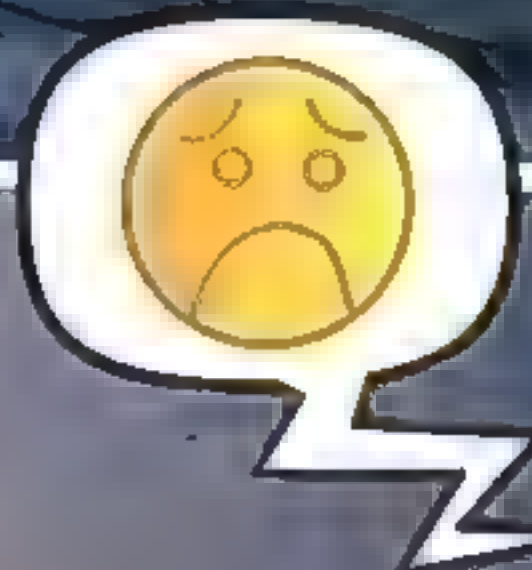
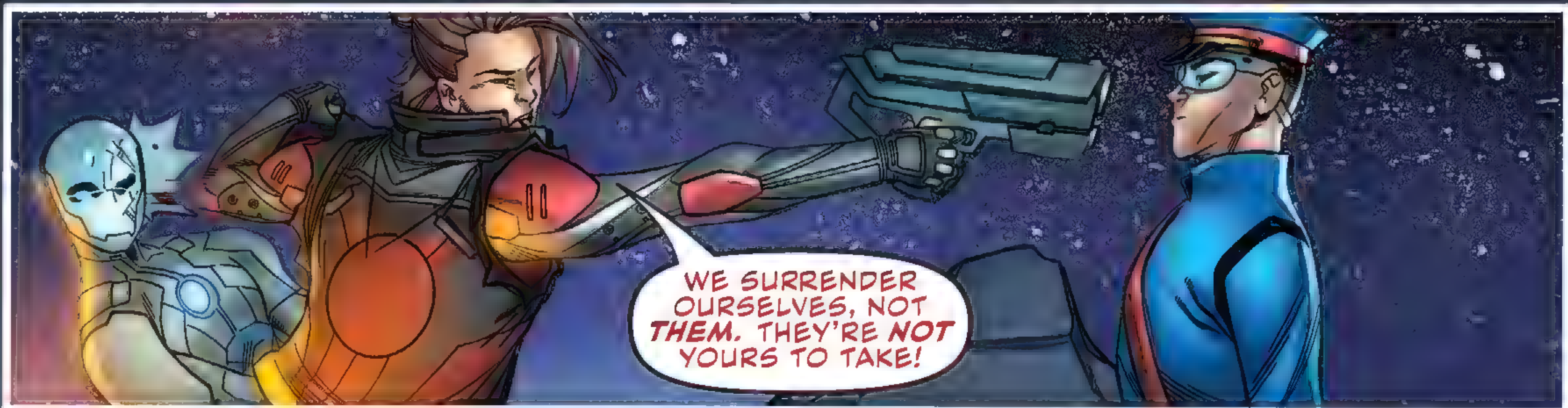
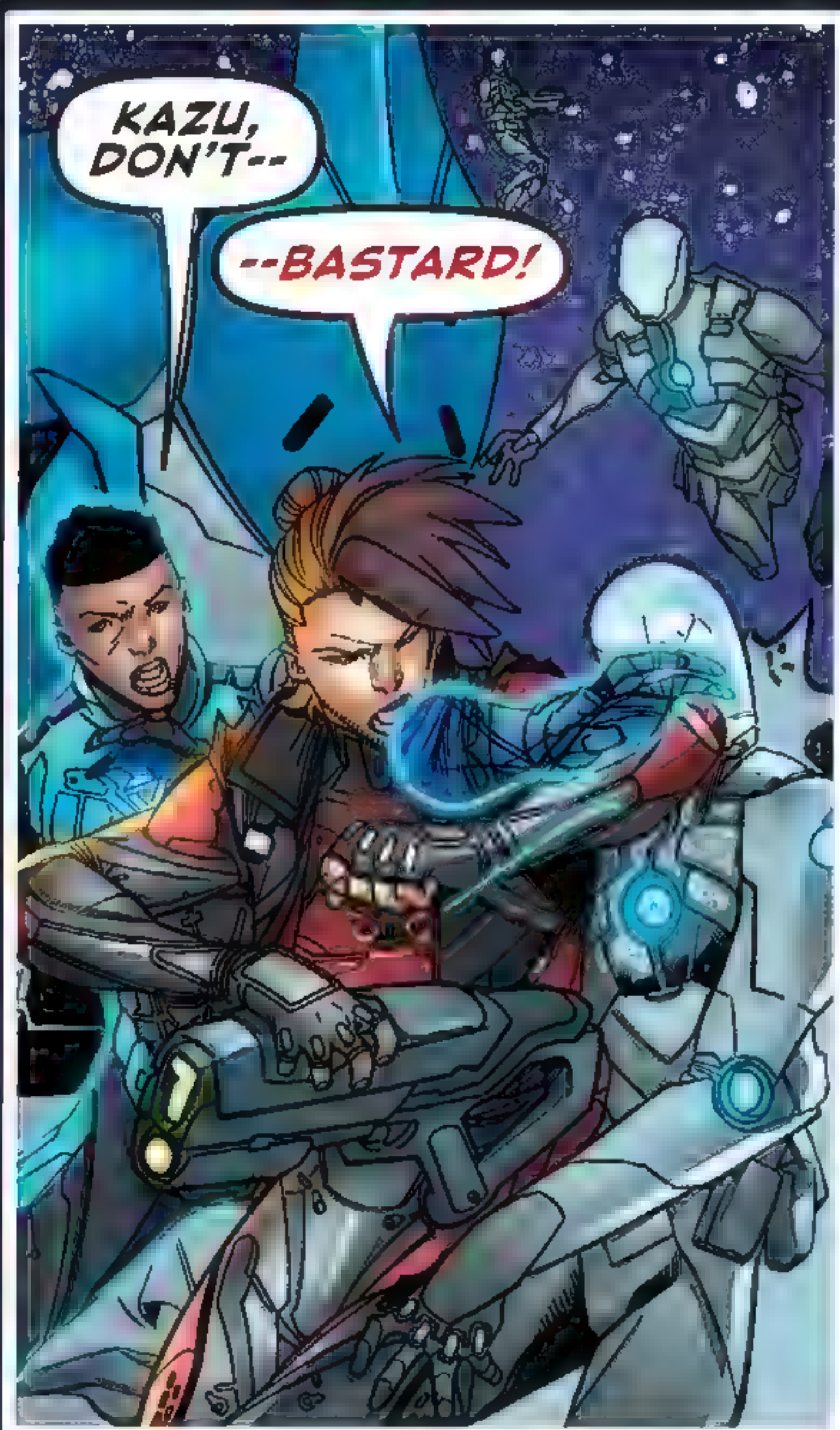
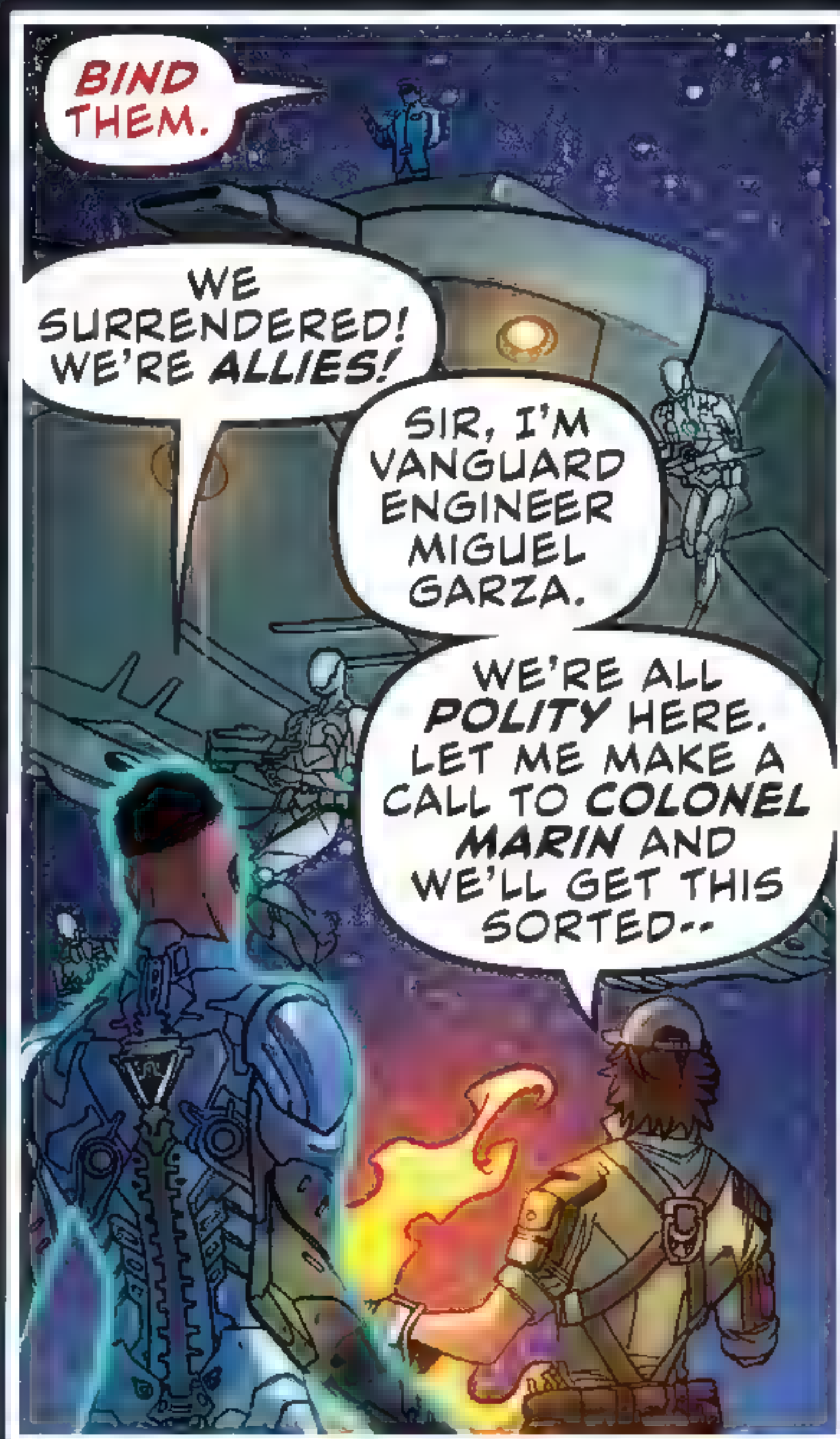


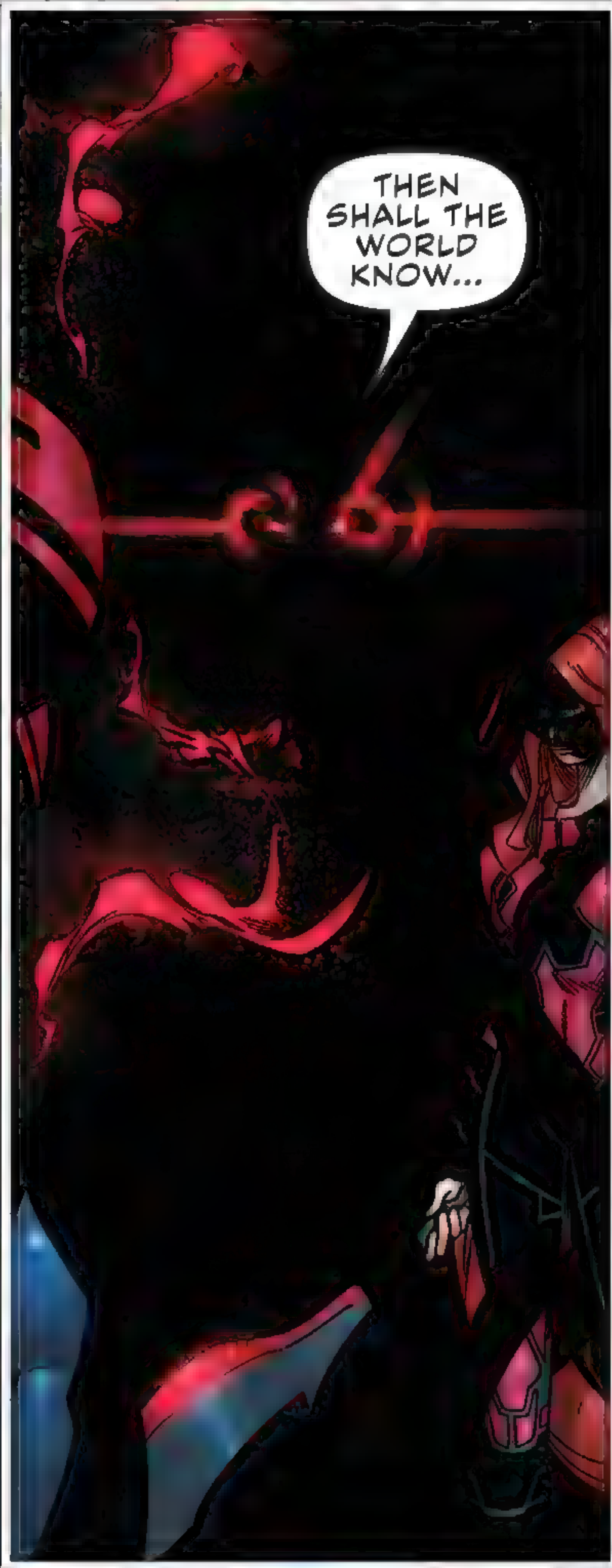
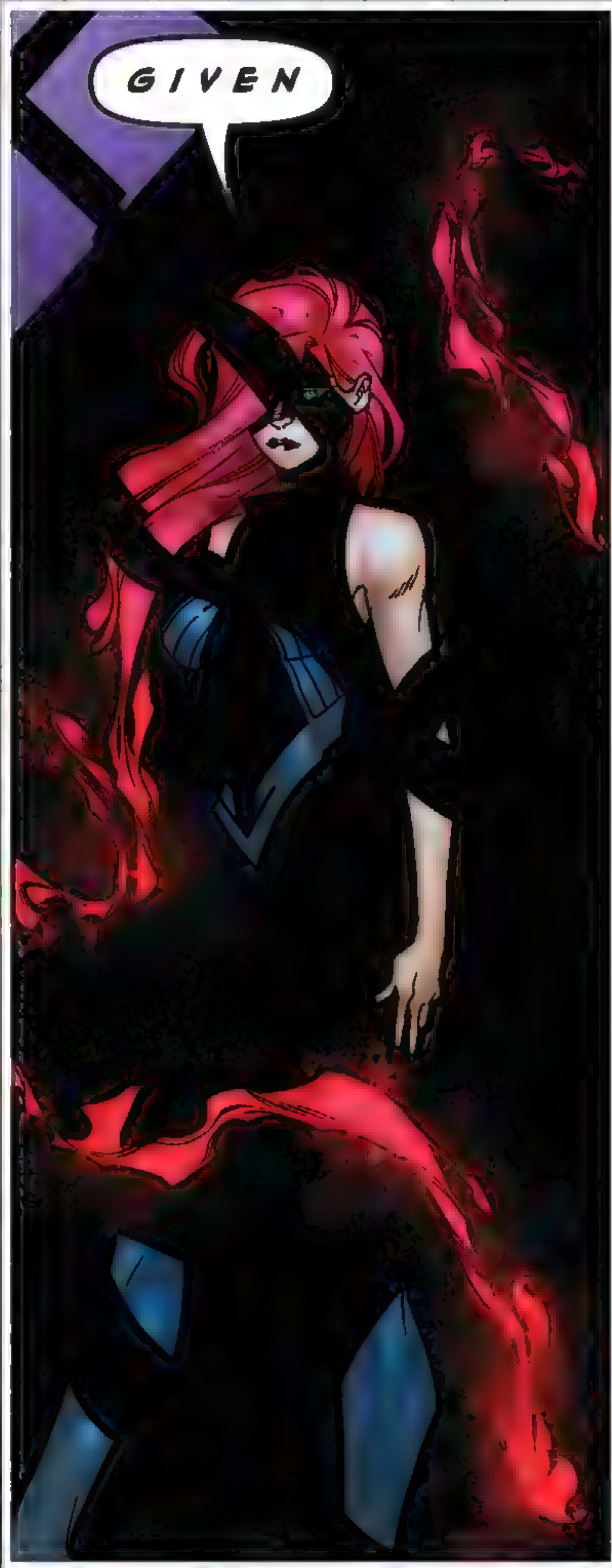
SERGEANT
IIDA.



GENERAL
ANNO.











2053. I KISSED ASHLEY AMANO ON
OUR OCEANOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP.

2056. WE CLIMBED TO THE TOP OF THE
BIG WALL. TAGGED IT. THEN KISSED AGAIN.

2059. I FORGOT ASHLEY'S
BIRTHDAY. SHE TOLD ME I
HAVE A SMALL HEART, BEFORE
SHE CRUSHED IT UNDERFOOT.

2061. THE LAST TIME I
WAS THIS CLOSE TO HOME.

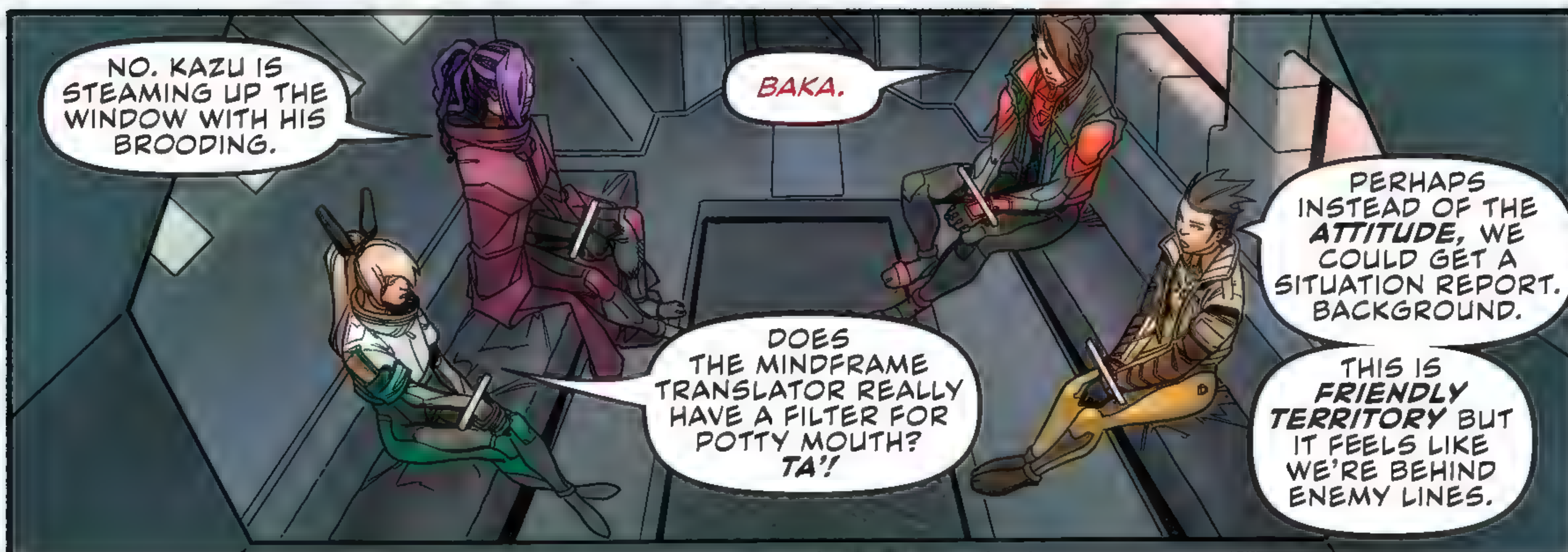
2069. NOW. AND I
HAVE THE VERY WORST
REASON TO BE BACK.

DAMN, ARE
YOU GUYS
SEEING THIS
VIEW?

unwelcome:GUESTS

COULIN KELLY and JACKSON LANZING written by
CARLO BARBERI plotted by WALDEN WONG
POTSDUNKER edited by TOM NAPOLI AND
DAN MORA lettered by ANDREW MARINO





NO. KAZU IS STEAMING UP THE WINDOW WITH HIS BROODING.

BAKA.

DOES THE MINDFRAME TRANSLATOR REALLY HAVE A FILTER FOR POTTY MOUTH? TA'!

PERHAPS INSTEAD OF THE ATTITUDE, WE COULD GET A SITUATION REPORT. BACKGROUND.

THIS IS FRIENDLY TERRITORY BUT IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BEHIND ENEMY LINES.



WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY TAKING US? WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

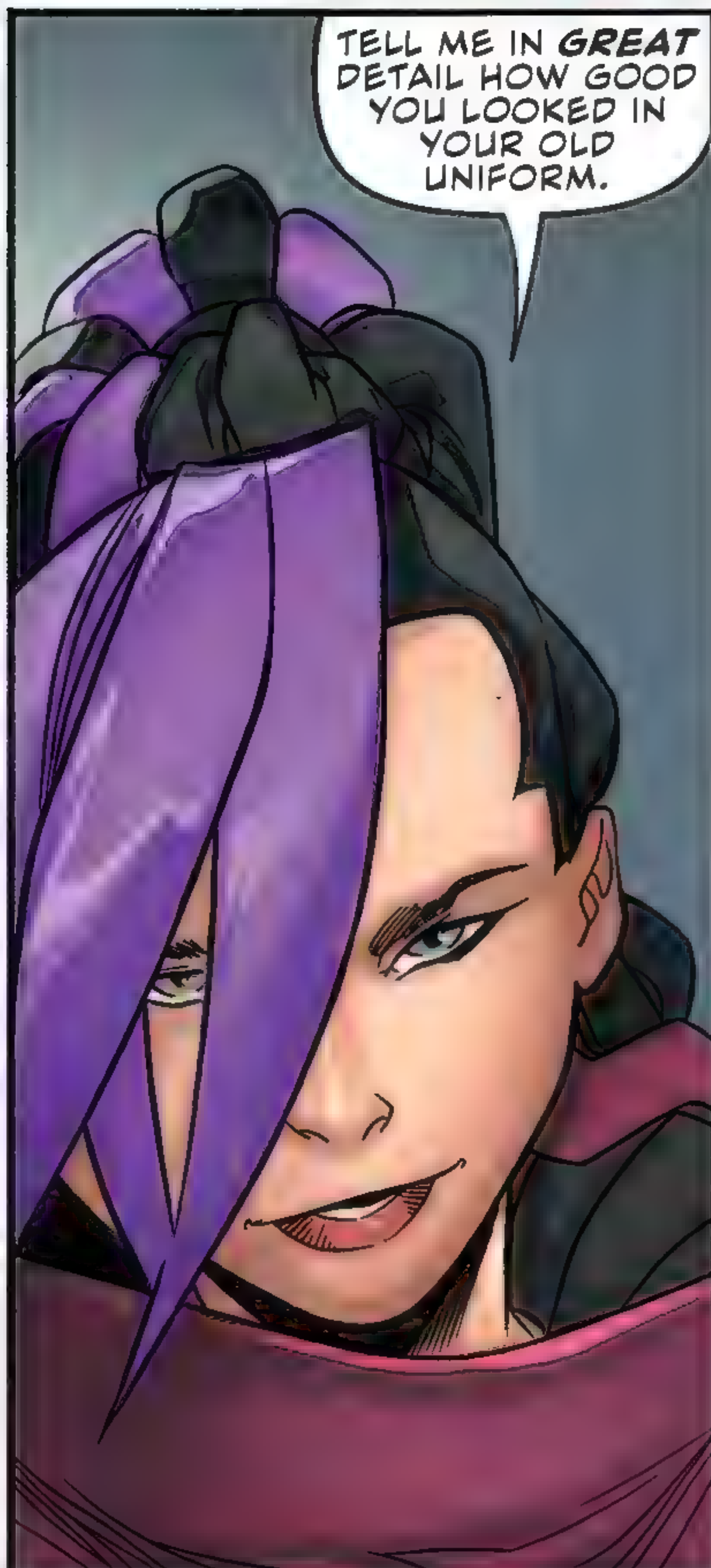
WE'RE IN OSAKA. HEART OF THE WAR EFFORT. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. SPECIAL PROJECTS.

AND ALSO DETAINMENT. I DO NOT THINK WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO BE EXECUTED.



YE DON'T THINK?

YOU BOTH NEED TO CALM DOWN. CAMMIE, MAYBE GO PLAY SOME OF THAT VIDEO GAME. AND KAZU?



TELL ME IN GREAT DETAIL HOW GOOD YOU LOOKED IN YOUR OLD UNIFORM.



HEH. I LOOKED DECENT. BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW APPROPRIATE THAT QUESTION IS.

IT IS COMPLETELY APPROPRIATE. YOU WERE BROODING, NOW YOU ARE NOT.

TA-DAA.



HATE TO
BREAK UP WHATEVER'S
HAPPENING RIGHT
HERE BUT KAZU, **PLEASE**.
YOU GREW UP HERE. IS
THERE **ANY** TACTICAL
INFORMATION THAT
WOULD BE
USEFUL--

**THERE
ISN'T.**

EVEN THE
SMALLEST
DETAIL--



I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING,
YAZ.

**THEY
KICKED ME
OUT!**



I DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING MORE
THAN YOU
ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING.

**PLEASE
STOP
ASKING.**



HEY, CHASE?
CAN YE HEAR
ME?

CAMMIE?
HOW ARE YOU
TALKING OVER
ETHER?

STOLE A
HEADSET OFF A
GUARD. HE SHOULDN'T
BE PLAYIN' ON DUTY
ANYWAY.

ANYWAY, I
GOT A PIRATE
CONNECTION
INTO SIEGE.
WANNA FIELD
TRIP?

CALIBAN HAS
BEEN ADDED TO
THE CHART.



I MEAN,
I KNOW
FOR A FACT
THAT YOU'RE
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.

CAMMIE,
THIS ISN'T
HEALTHY.

BROODING
ON PAST FAILURE,
THAT'S UNHEALTHY.
SIEGE IS WHAT THE
BODY NEEDS.

BESIDES,
JAPAN ISN'T THE
ONLY PLACE WE
HAVE A MYSTERY
TO DEAL WITH,
IS IT?

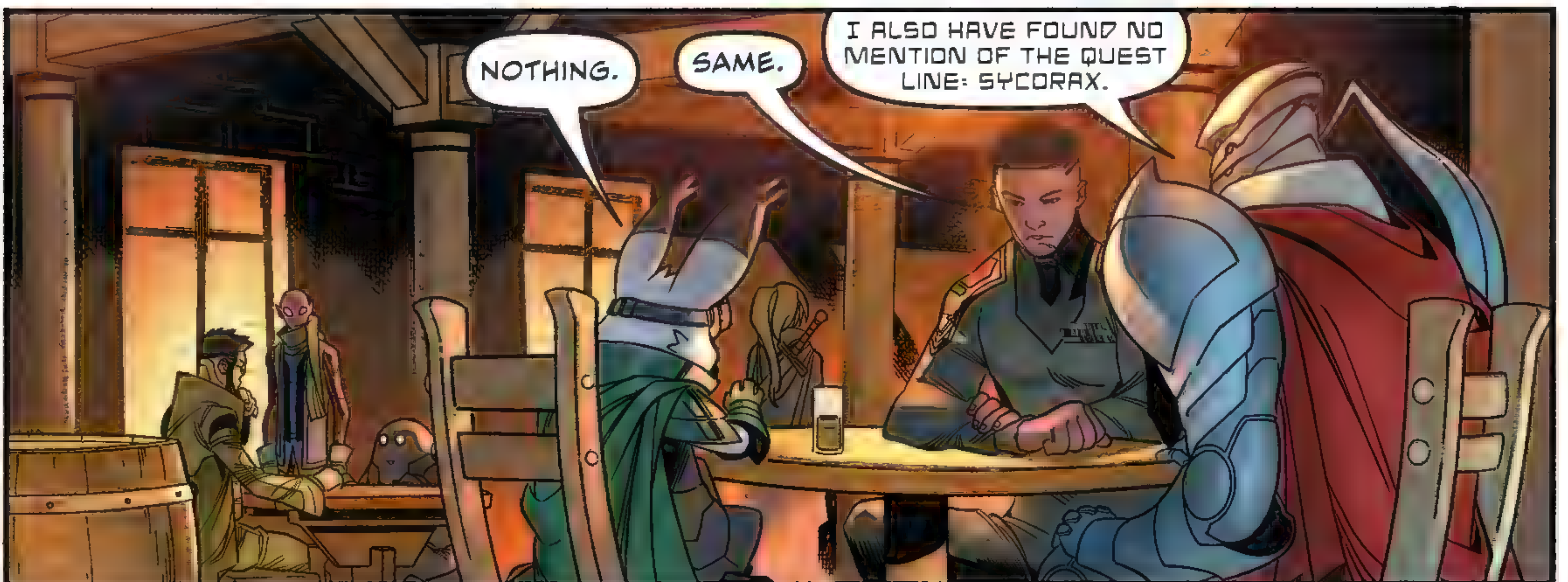


...ALL
RIGHT. YOU
WIN.

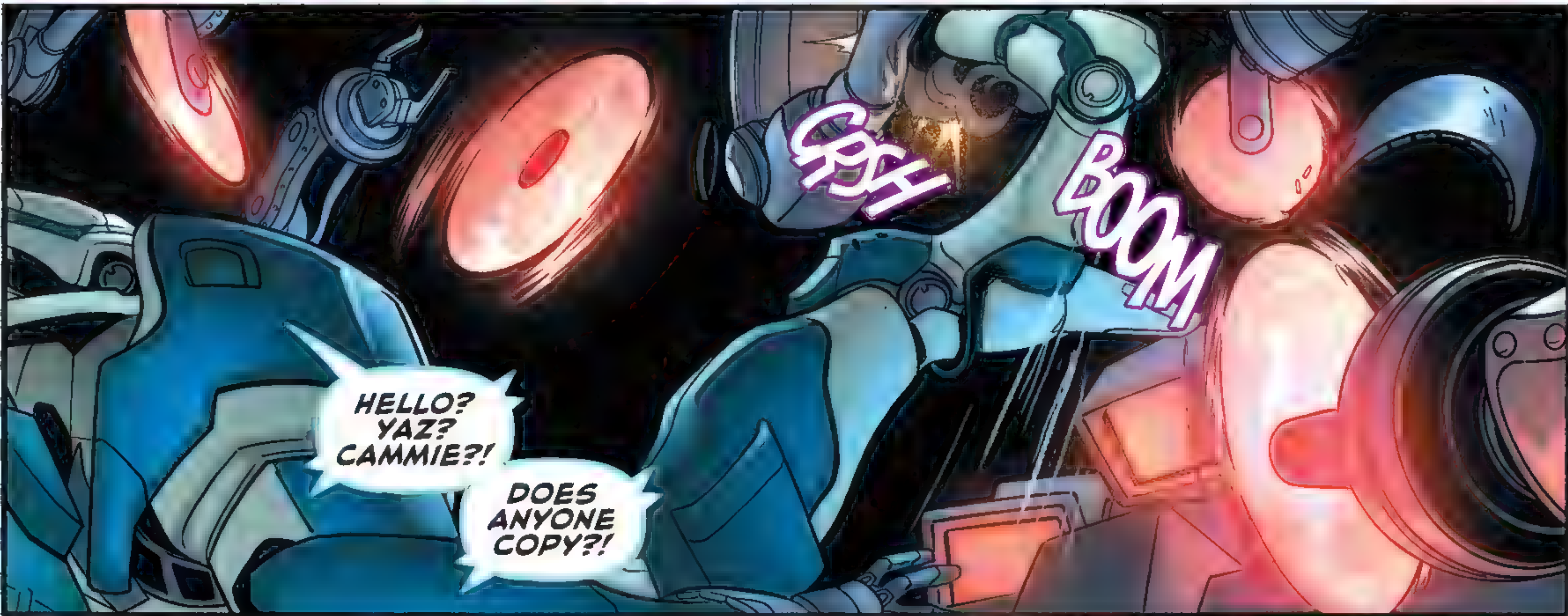
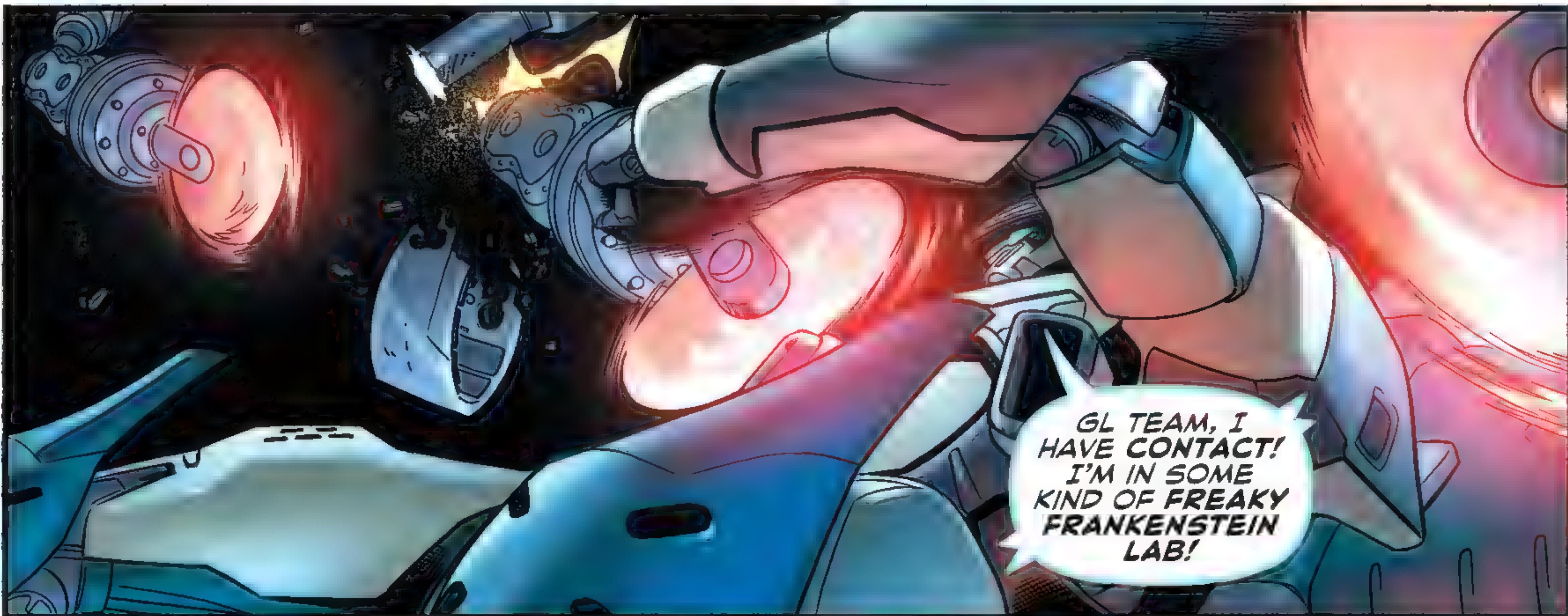
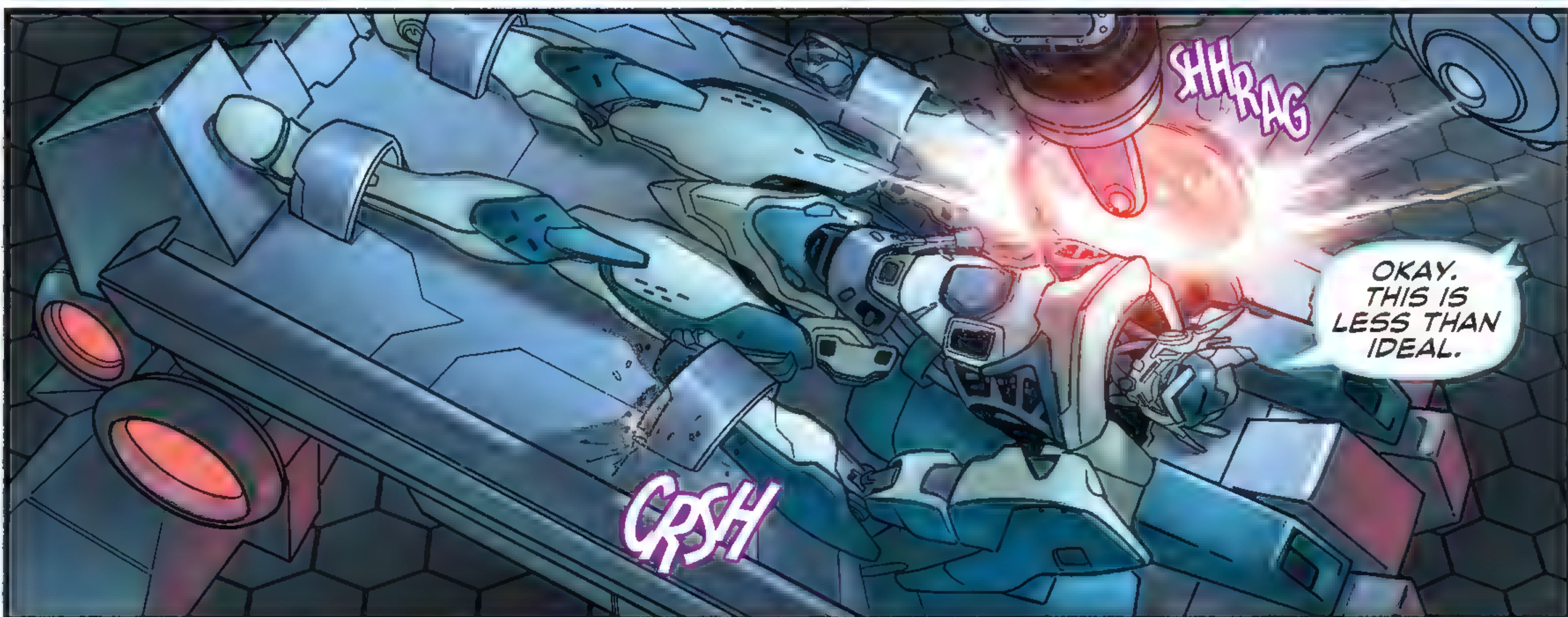
PER
USUAL.

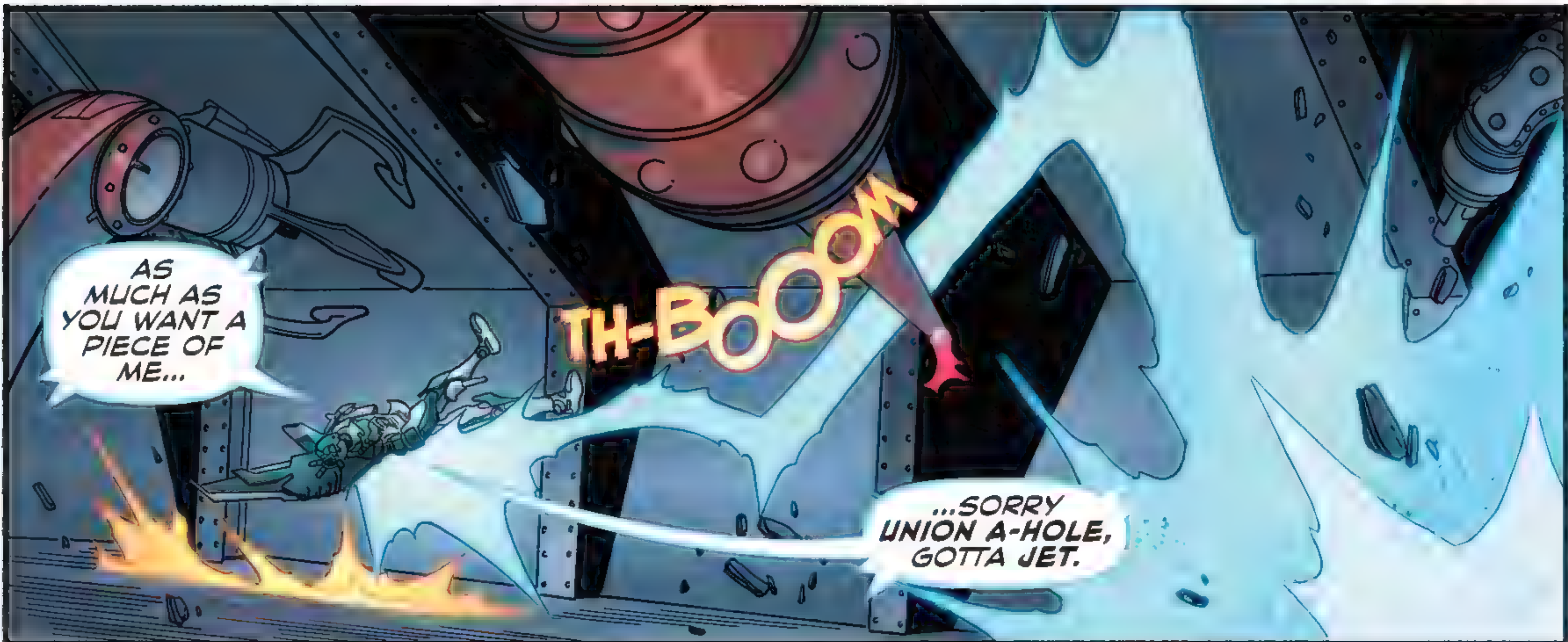
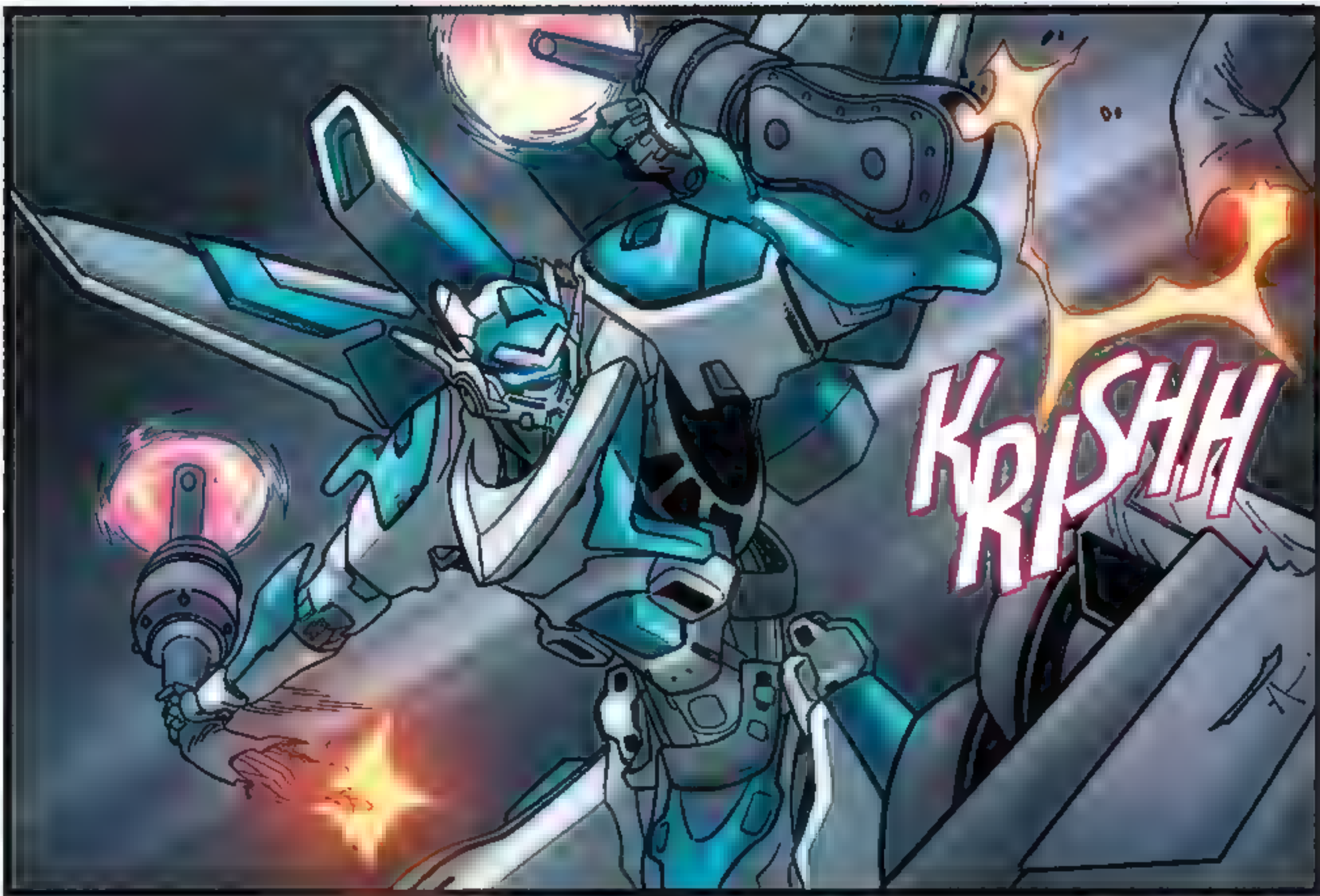
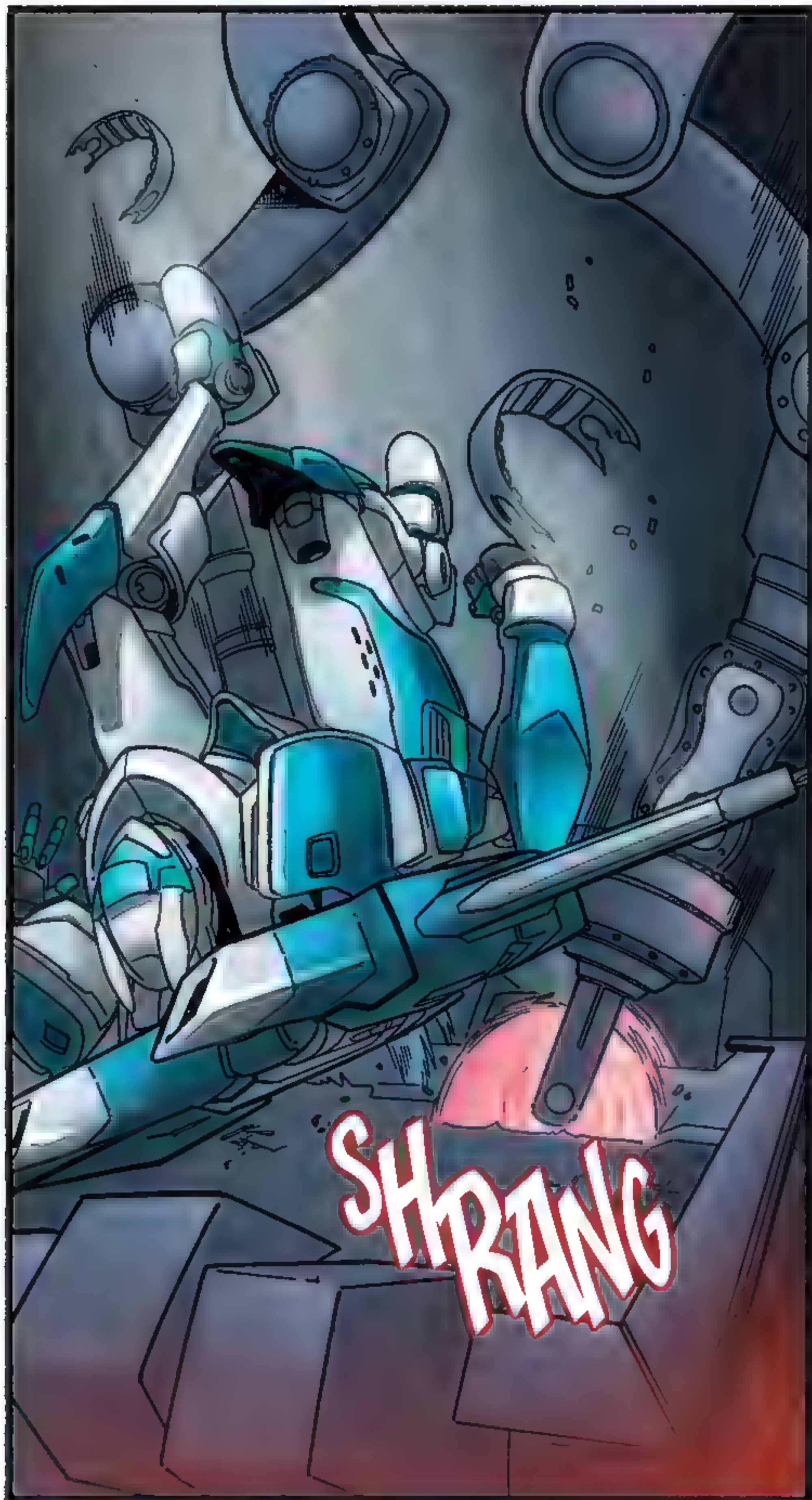
SQUAD
UP.

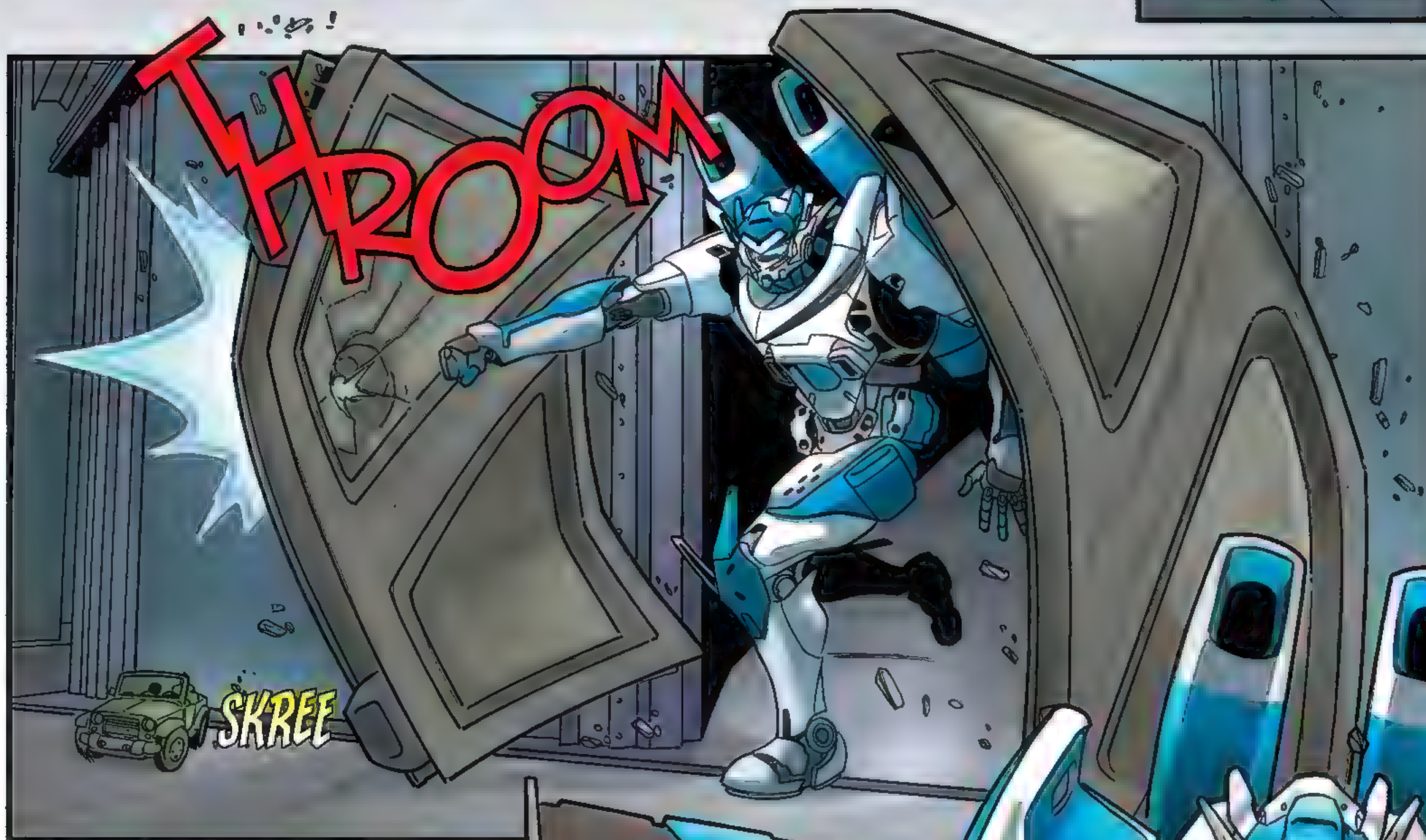
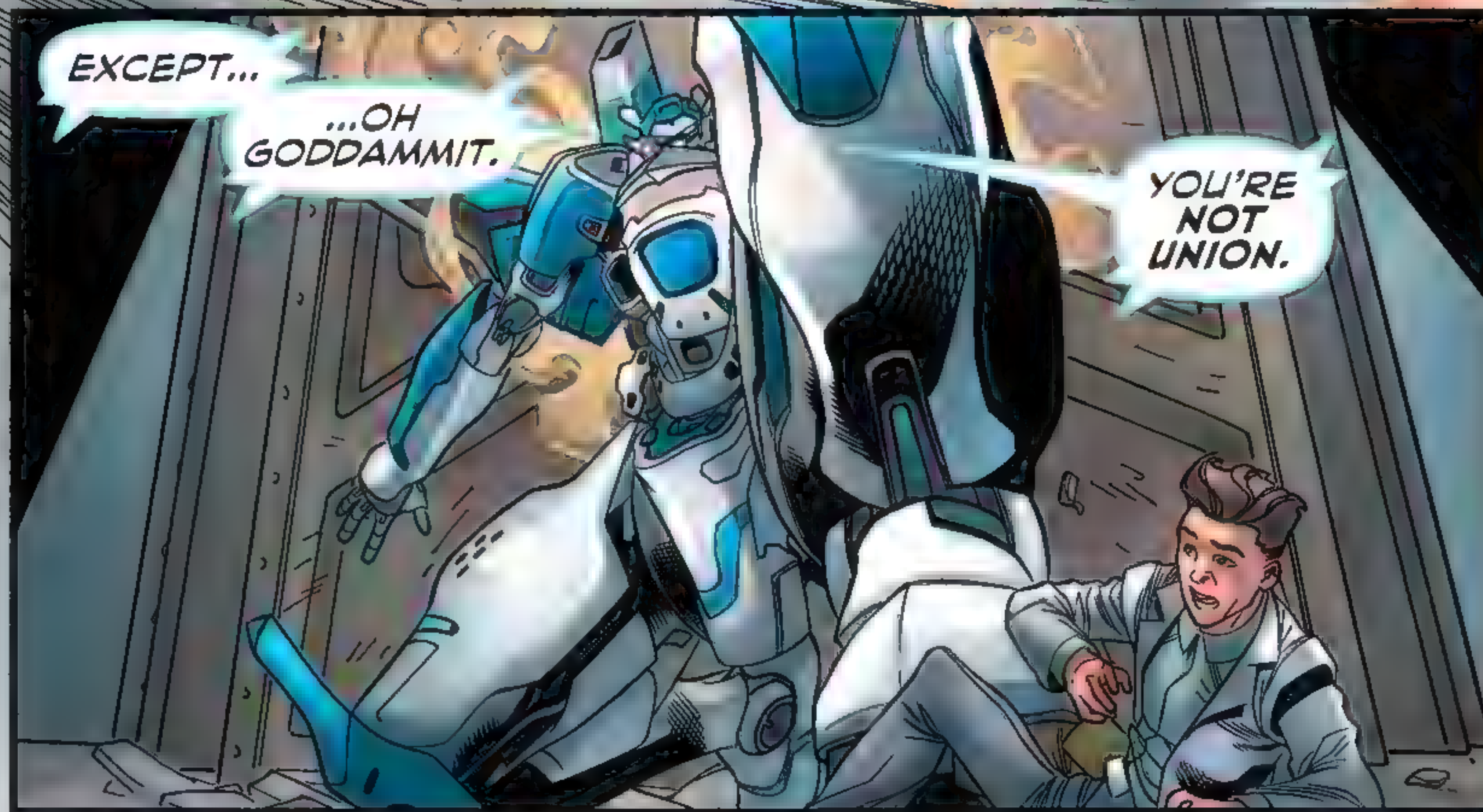














WHEN I WAS SMALL,
ALL I WANTED WAS
TO BE A SOLDIER.



WHEN I GREW UP, I
REALIZED THAT THERE
WAS NOTHING WORSE.



NOW I'M BACK WHERE I STARTED.
NOT A SOLDIER, BUT A FIGHTER
STILL. GEN:LOCK COMPATIBLE. PART
OF A TEAM. I HAVE...FRIENDS.

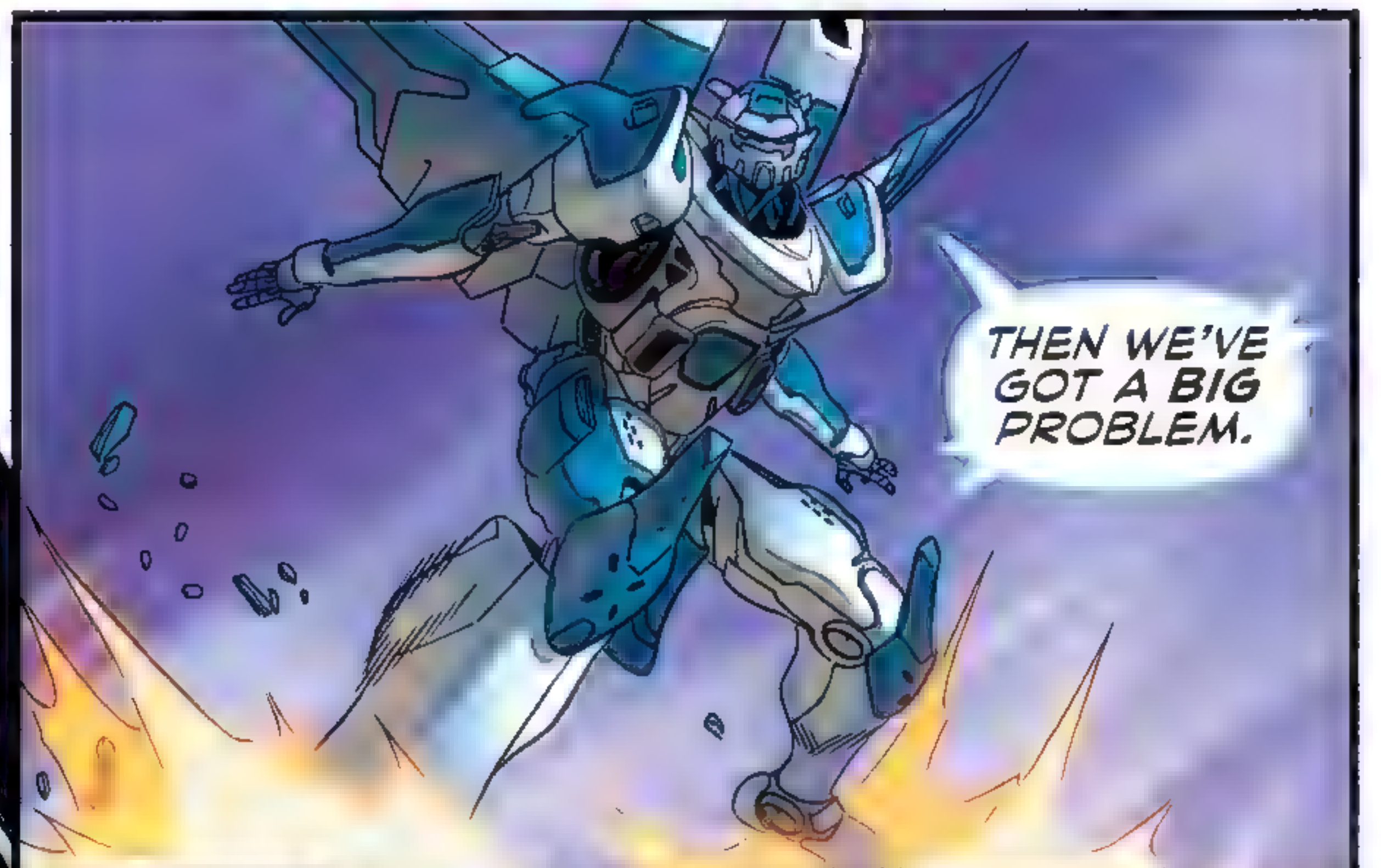
YOU HEAR
ME?!



YAZ! WHEREVER
ANNO'S MEN ARE
TAKING YOU,
DON'T GO WITH
THEM.

A LITTLE
LATE FOR
THAT,
CHASE.

SO I HAVE TO ASK
MYSELF, IF I HAVE
ALL OF THIS...



THEN WE'VE
GOT A BIG
PROBLEM.

...WHY DO I
STILL FEEL SO
SMALL?



CHASE! WHERE ARE YOU? I WAS STARTING TO THINK THEY'D LOCKED YOU IN A VAULT SOMEWHERE.

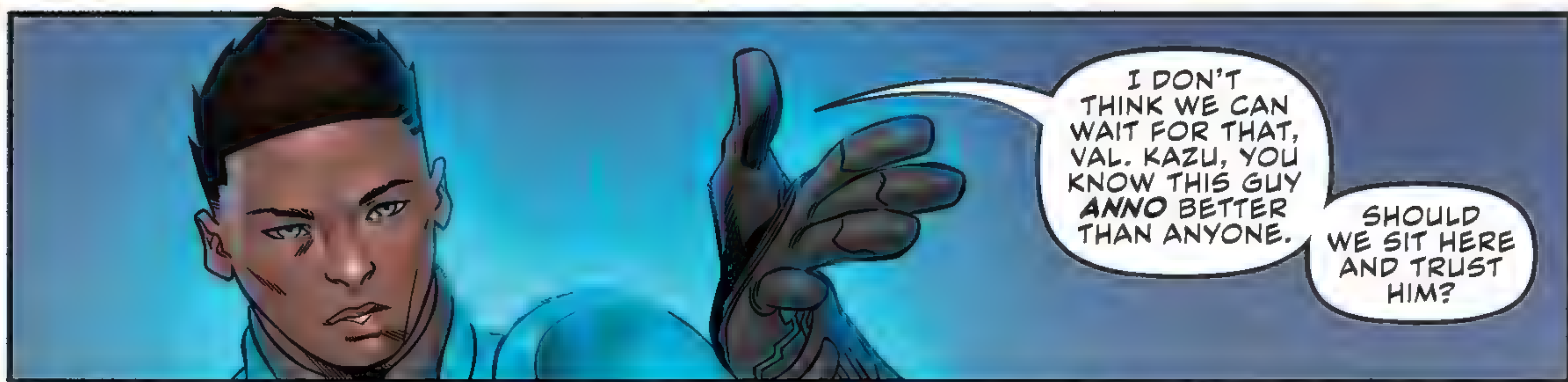
THEY *TRIED*. IT DIDN'T TAKE.

YA REALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO FIGHT THE JAPANESE POLITY RIGHT NOW? AREN'T THEY SUPPOSED TO BE ALLIES?

THEY'RE THE ONES THAT TRIED TO TEAR MY HOLON APART, CAMMIE. I'M JUST PUNCHING BACK.

SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE. SEND YOUR POSITION TO OUR SUITS.

WE'LL COME FOR YOU ONCE THE GENERAL LETS US FREE.



I DON'T THINK WE CAN WAIT FOR THAT, VAL. KAZU, YOU KNOW THIS GUY **ANNO** BETTER THAN ANYONE.

SHOULD WE SIT HERE AND TRUST HIM?



NO.

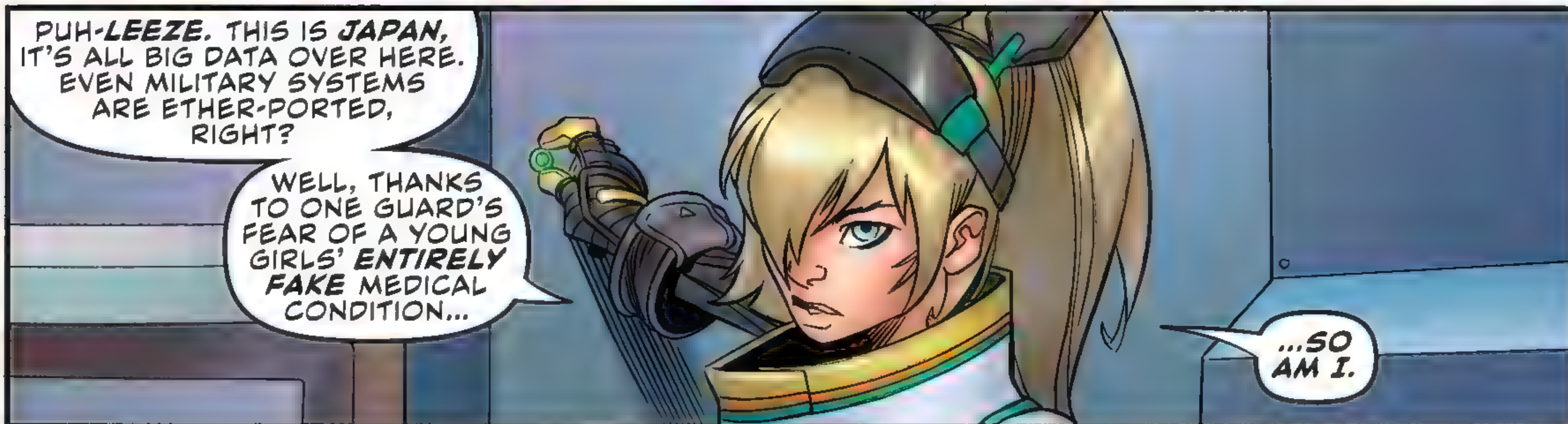
WE SHOULD GO.

BEFORE THEY TEAR **US** APART AS WELL.



I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK. EVERYBODY STAND ASIDE AND LET A **PROFESSIONAL** GET TO WORK.

THE DOOR IS TOO STRONG. KAZU'S BEEN POUNDING AT IT FOR AS LONG AS WE'VE BEEN IN HERE.



PUH-LEEZE. THIS IS **JAPAN**, IT'S ALL BIG DATA OVER HERE. EVEN MILITARY SYSTEMS ARE ETHER-PORTED, RIGHT?

WELL, THANKS TO ONE GUARD'S FEAR OF A YOUNG GIRLS' **ENTIRELY FAKE** MEDICAL CONDITION...

...SO AM I.



BRB,
CUTIES.



ACH.
HARD MODE,
HUH?



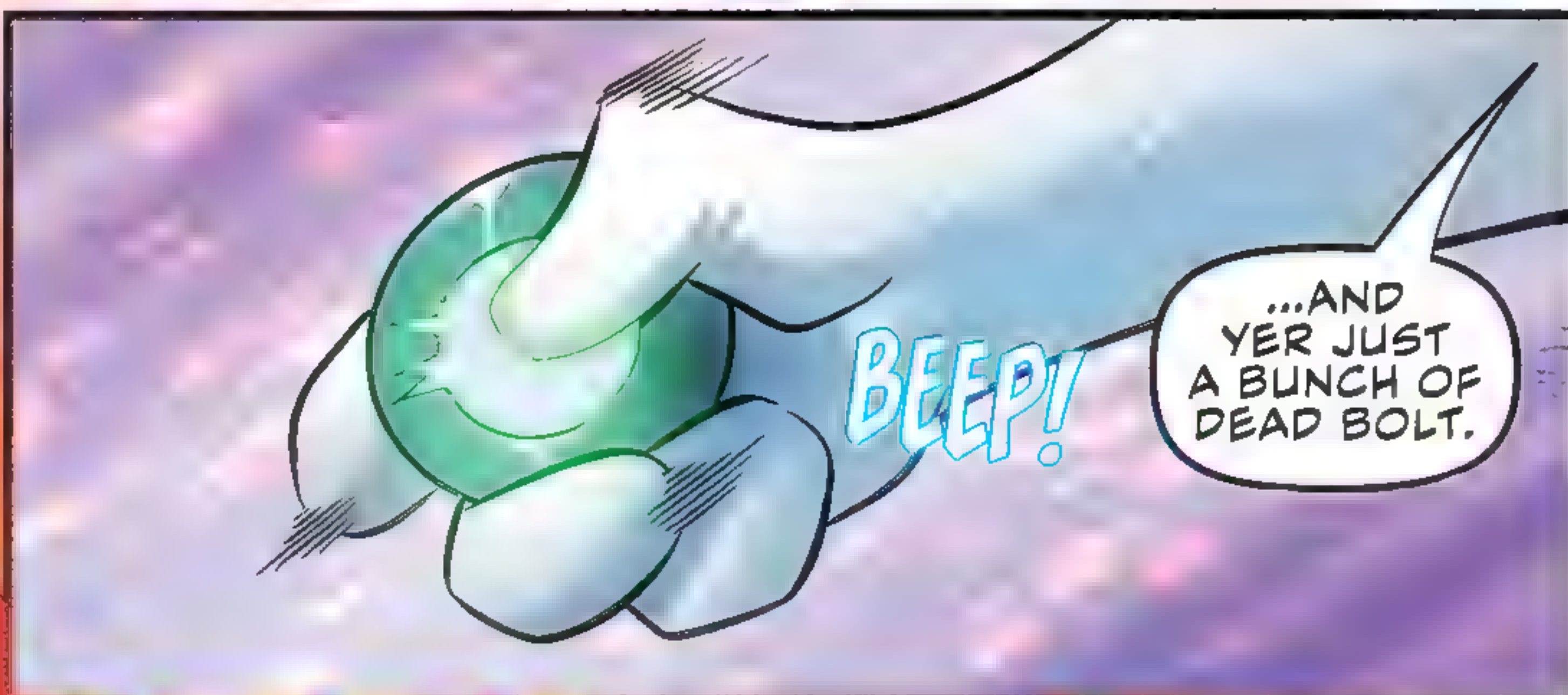
I WAS
HACKING

BOTS
LIKE
YOU

WHEN
I WAS
JUST
A WEE
LASS!

NOW I'M
A BADASS

CYBERPUNK
INTERNET NINJA...



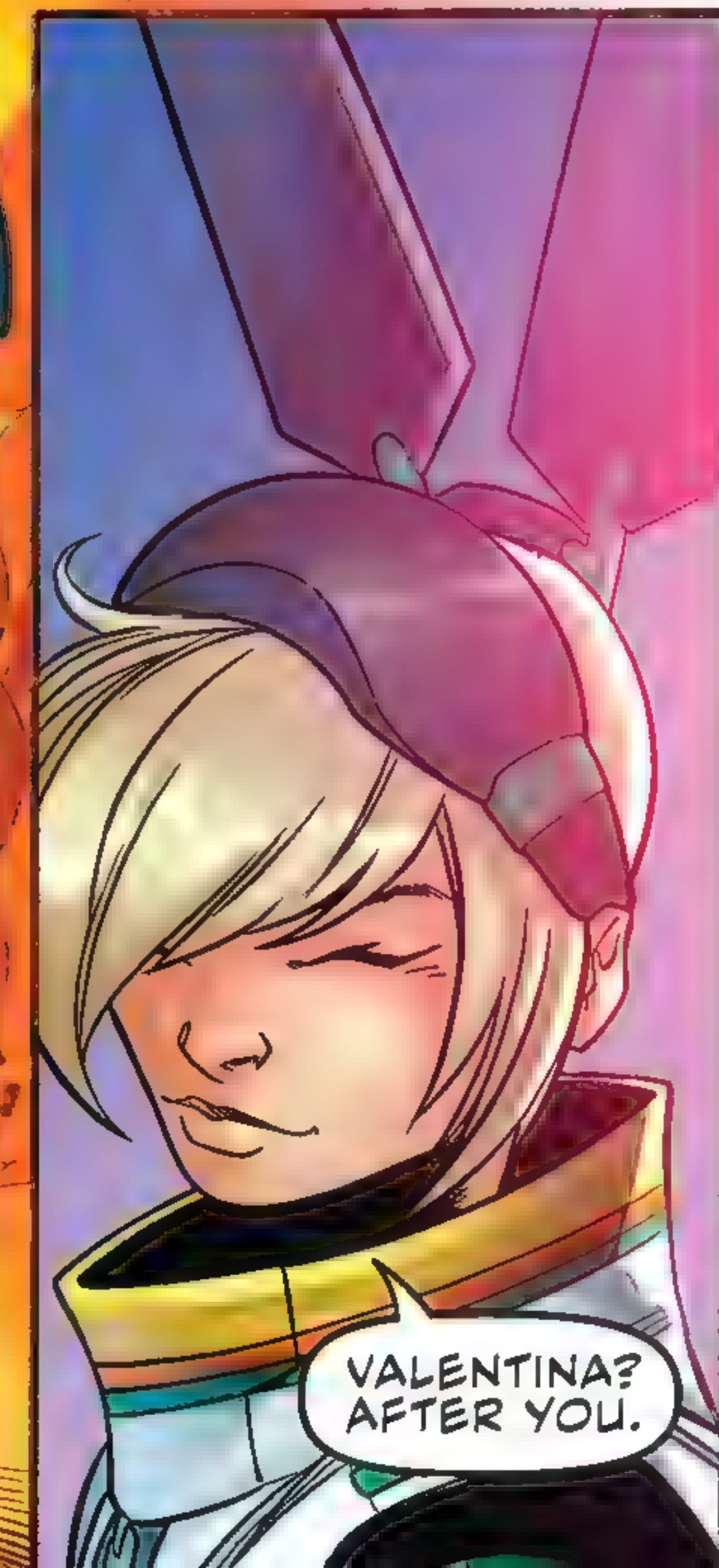
BEEP!

...AND
YER JUST
A BUNCH OF
DEAD BOLT.

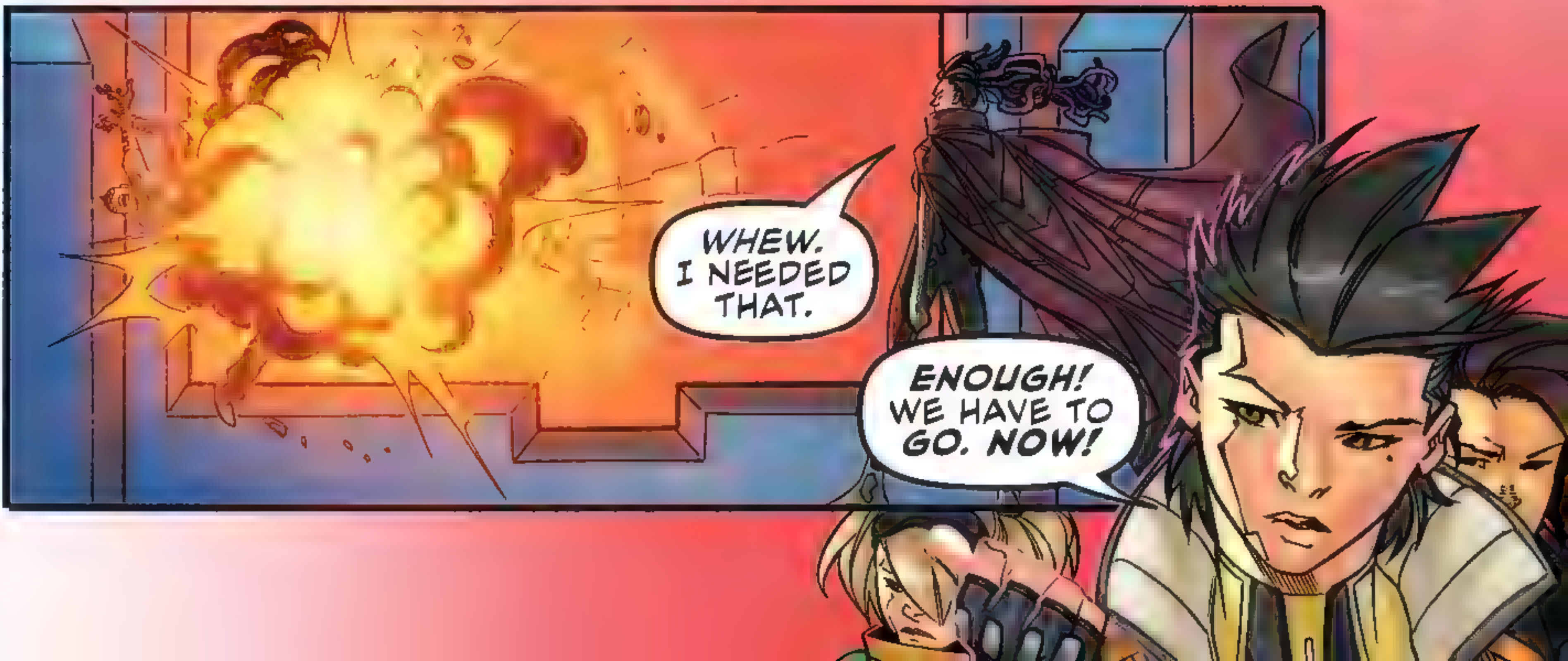
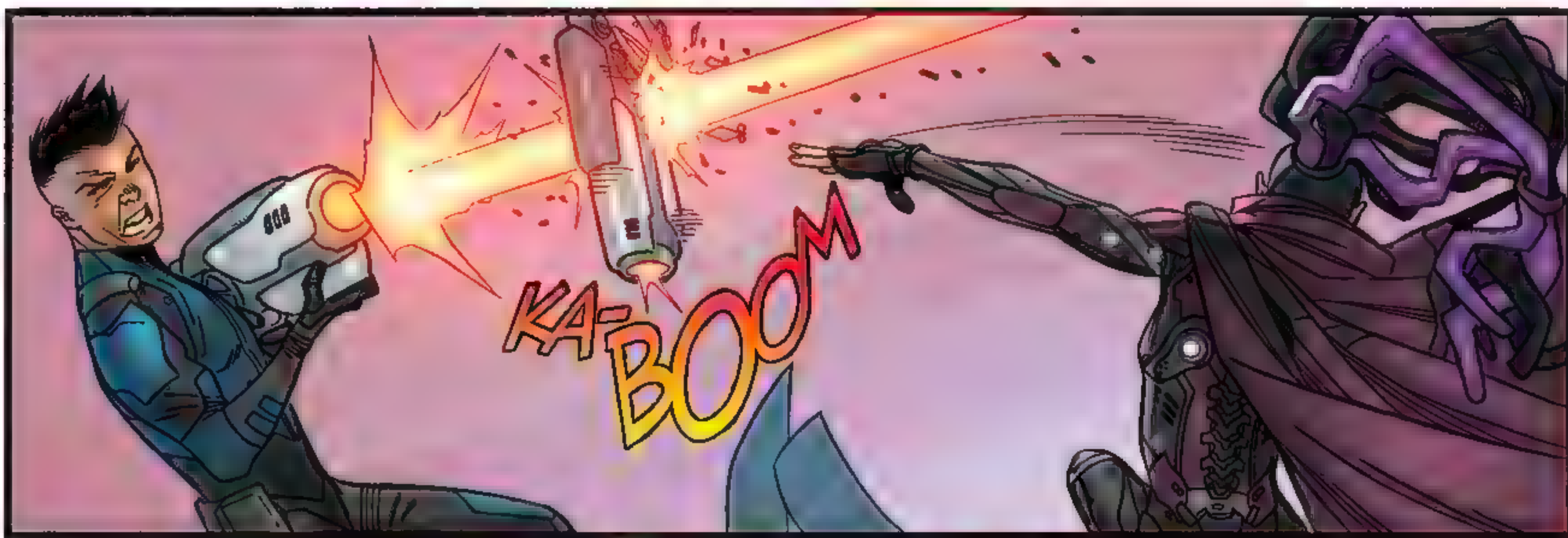
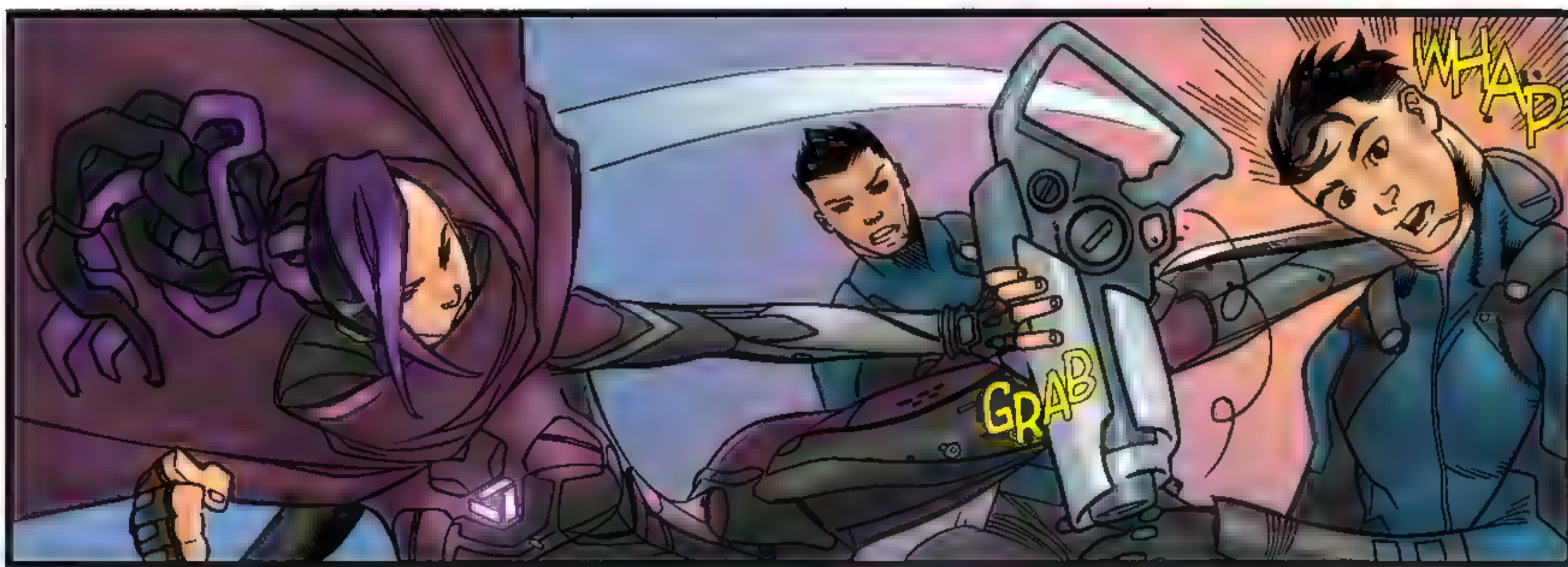
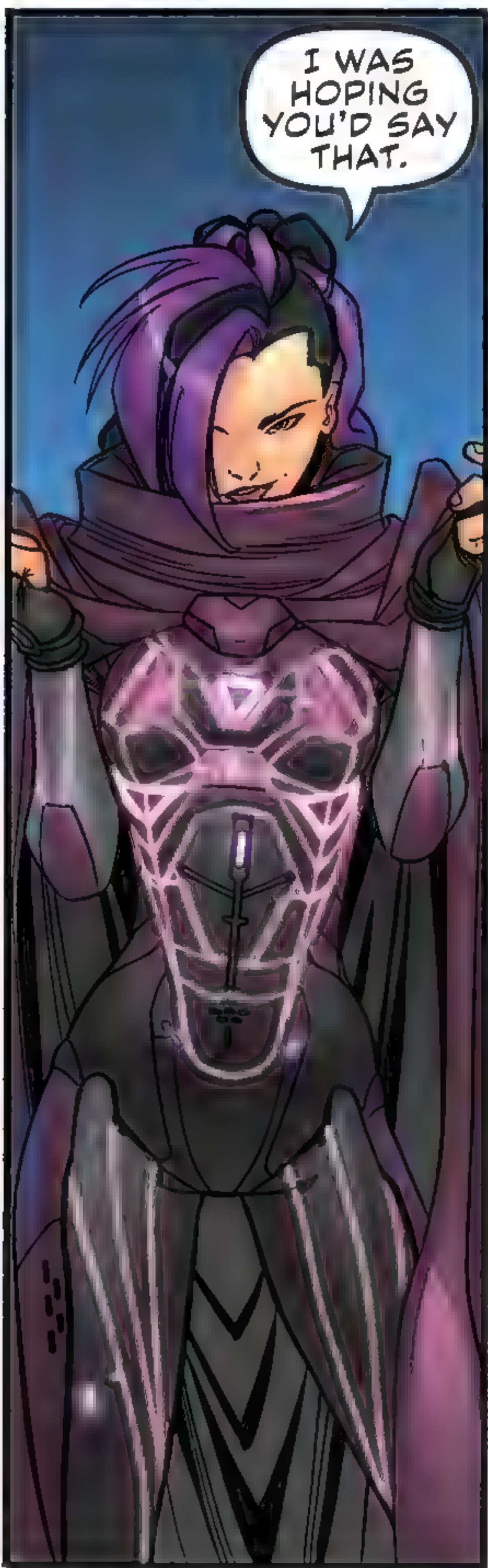
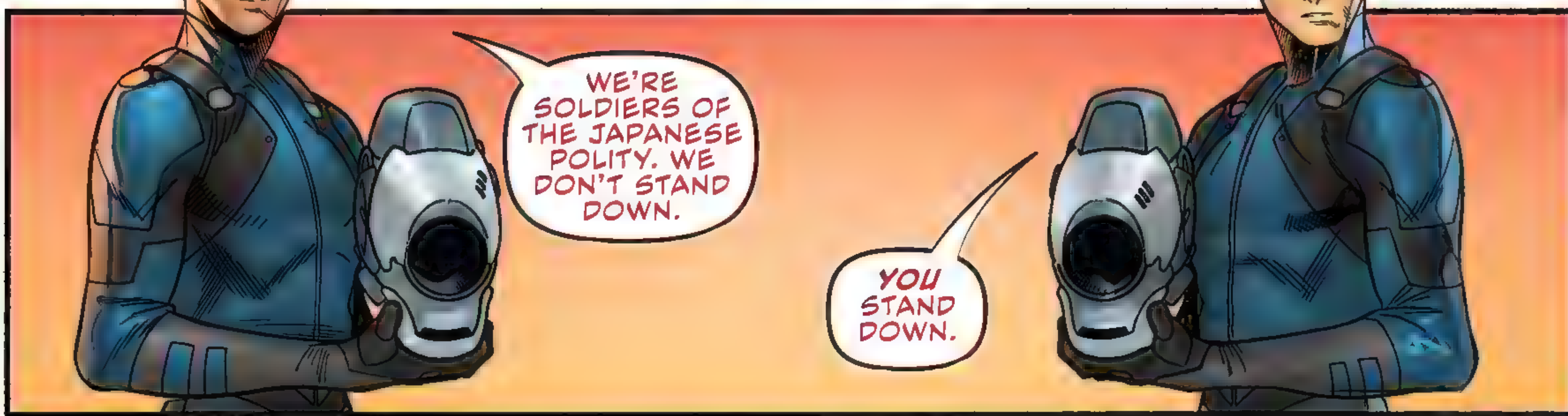
KA BOOOOOM

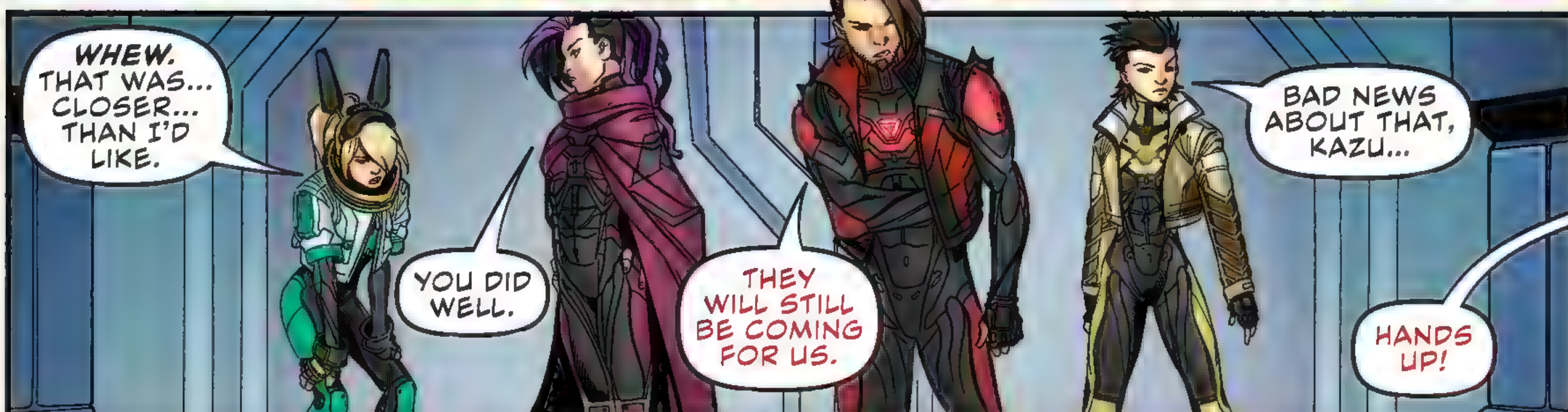
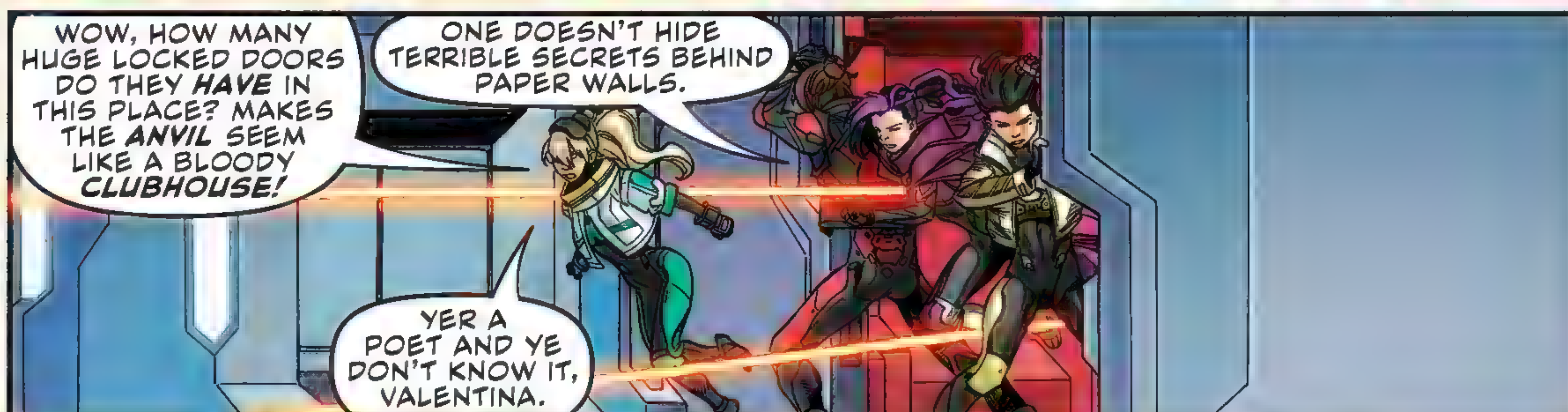
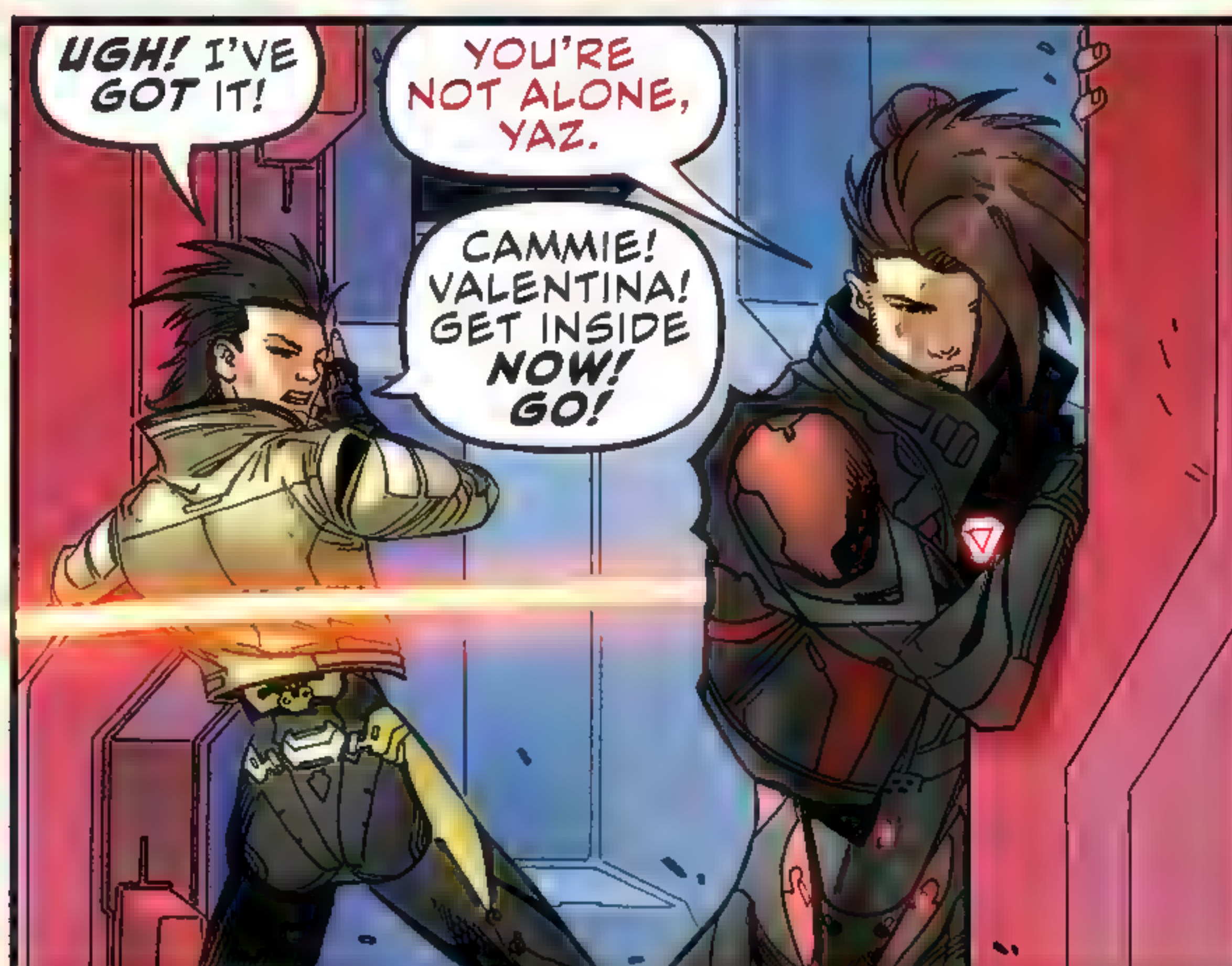


EAT
YER HEART
OUT, KIRBY
GRIPS.



VALENTINA?
AFTER YOU.







THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA. NO OUTSIDERS ALLOWED.

MAKE A MOVE AND WE GAS THIS WHOLE AIRLOCK. DON'T TEST US.



PLEASE, MY NAME IS YASAMIN MADRANI, I'M A MEMBER OF THE POLITY EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE--

STOP. THAT'S CLASSIFIED.



SCIENTISTS. I AM SERGEANT KAZU IIDA, THIRD ATTACHÉ TO THE HONORABLE GENERAL ANNO.

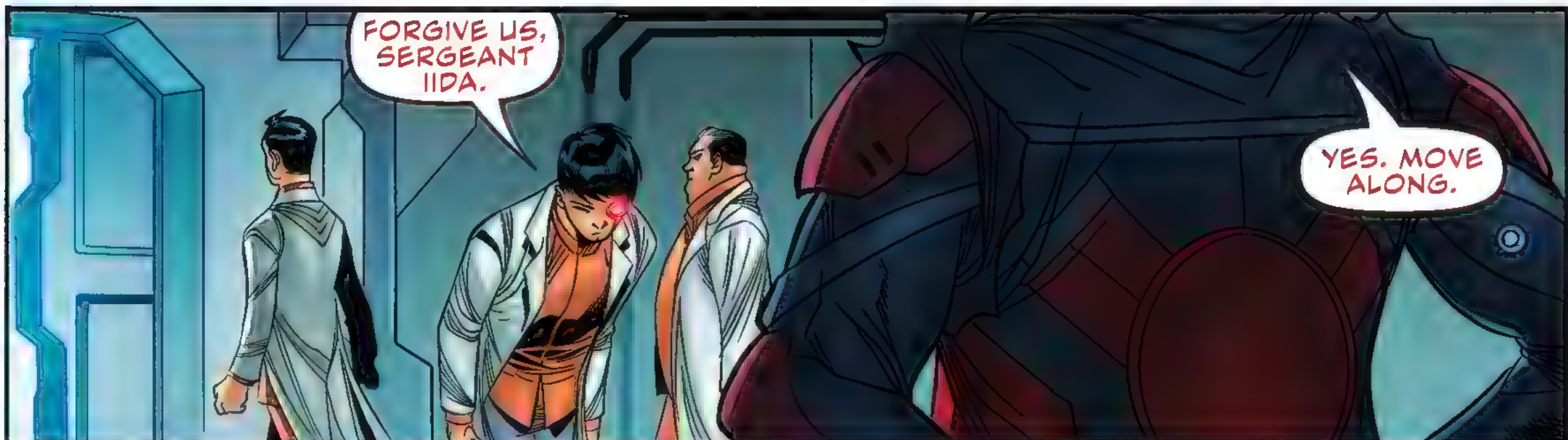
THESE GAIJIN ARE HERE ON HIGHLY SECRET BUSINESS.

LAYING EYES ON THEM IS, IN AND OF ITSELF, A CRIME.

SO TELL ME, ARE YOU CRIMINALS?



OR ARE YOU MEN WHO WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THEIR JOBS?



FORGIVE US, SERGEANT IIDA.

YES. MOVE ALONG.



THAT WAS SLICK, KAZU.

WE HAVE BUT MOMENTS UNTIL THEY CONFIRM MY STORY WAS A LIE. WE SHOULD PROCEED.

DO YOU COPY, YAZ? I'M JUST BEYOND THE DOOR.

I HEAR YOU, CHASE.



NOW WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED US TO SEE?

TAKE A LOOK. IT'S KINDA HARD TO MISS.



HOLY ~~Mr~~!

WHAT IN THE EVER-LOVING ~~Mr~~ IS THAT?

WE CALL IT **THE SHOGUNATE.**

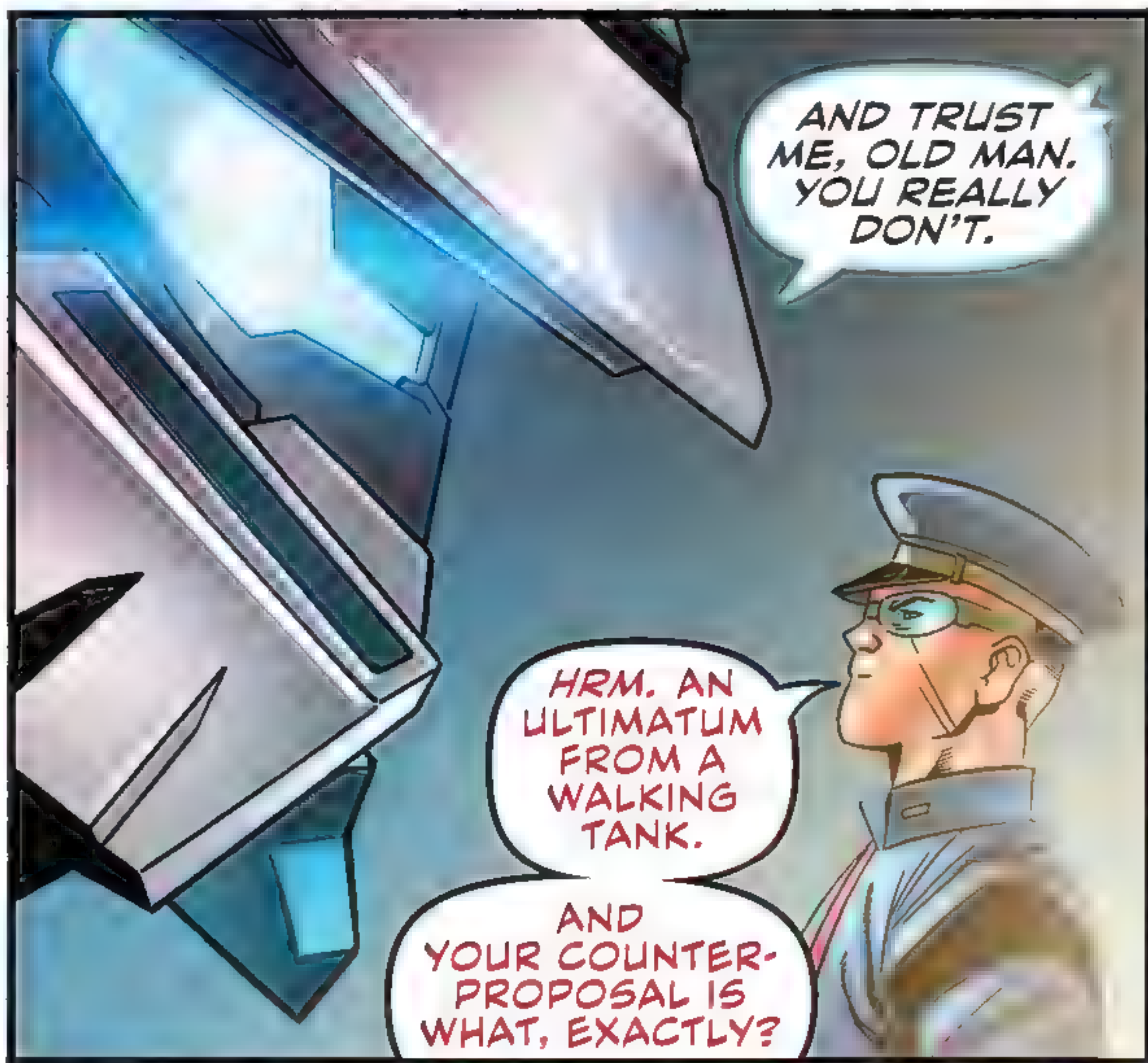
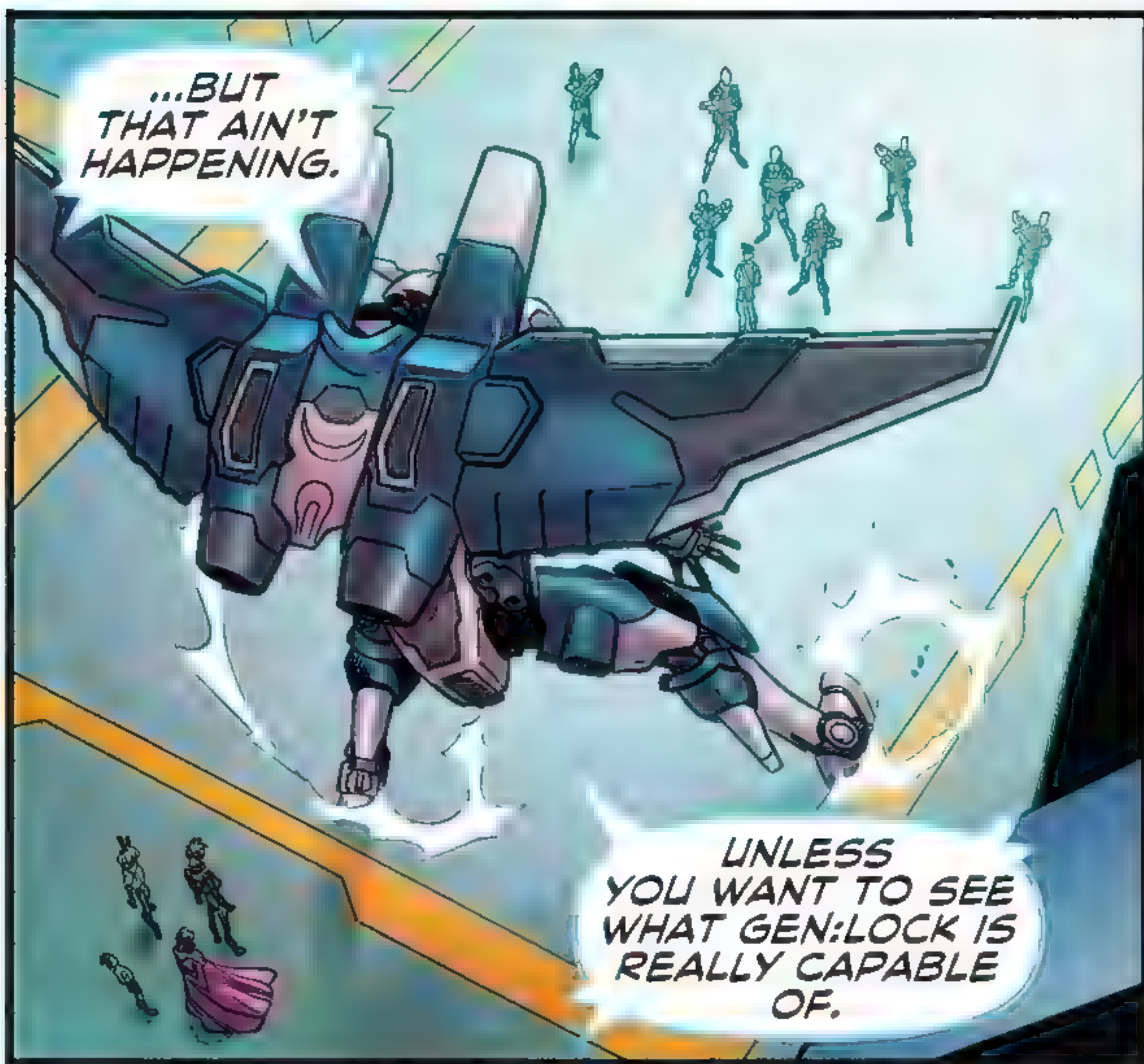
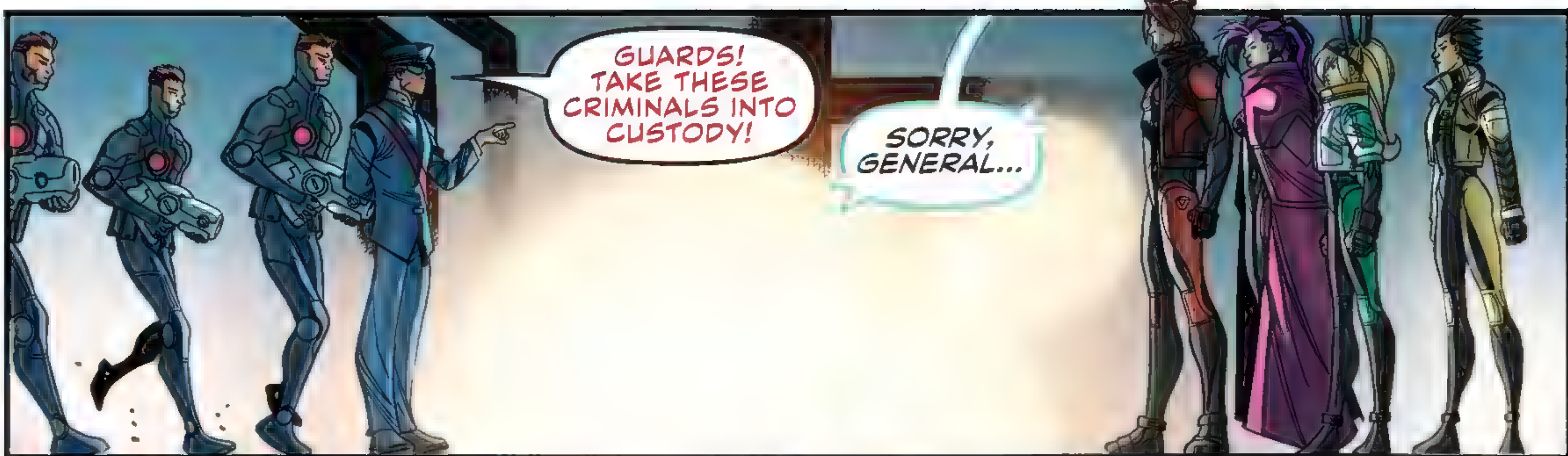
A PERFECT MECHA, CAPABLE OF FACING THE UNION BLOCKADE SINGLEHANDEDLY. A TANK. A JET. A WHIP. PILOTED AS ONE BY TWO THOUSAND OF JAPAN'S GREATEST MINDS.

THE UNBEATABLE MACHINE.

IT IS THE WARFARE ADVANCEMENT THAT WILL MAKE GEN:LOCK TECHNOLOGY OBSOLETE.

AND IT IS HOW WE ARE GOING TO WIN THIS WAR.





AGREED.



BUT I KEEP THE DEAD HOLONS, THE PLANE, THE PODS, YOUR ENGINEER...

...AND DR. WELLER'S ROBOT.

WE'LL CALL YOU WHEN IT'S TIME TO TEST OUR GREAT MACHINE AGAINST YOURS.



DAMMIT, ANNO! NOTHING'S CHANGED! YOU'RE STILL A FOOL!

SO OBSESSED WITH YOUR OWN LEGACY YOU CAN'T SEE THE LINE BETWEEN ENEMY AND FRIEND!

A FOOL I MAY BE, WASHOUT IIDA. BUT YOU'RE WALKING AWAY WITH ONE WINNING CARD...



...WHILE I LEAVE WITH THE ENTIRE DECK.

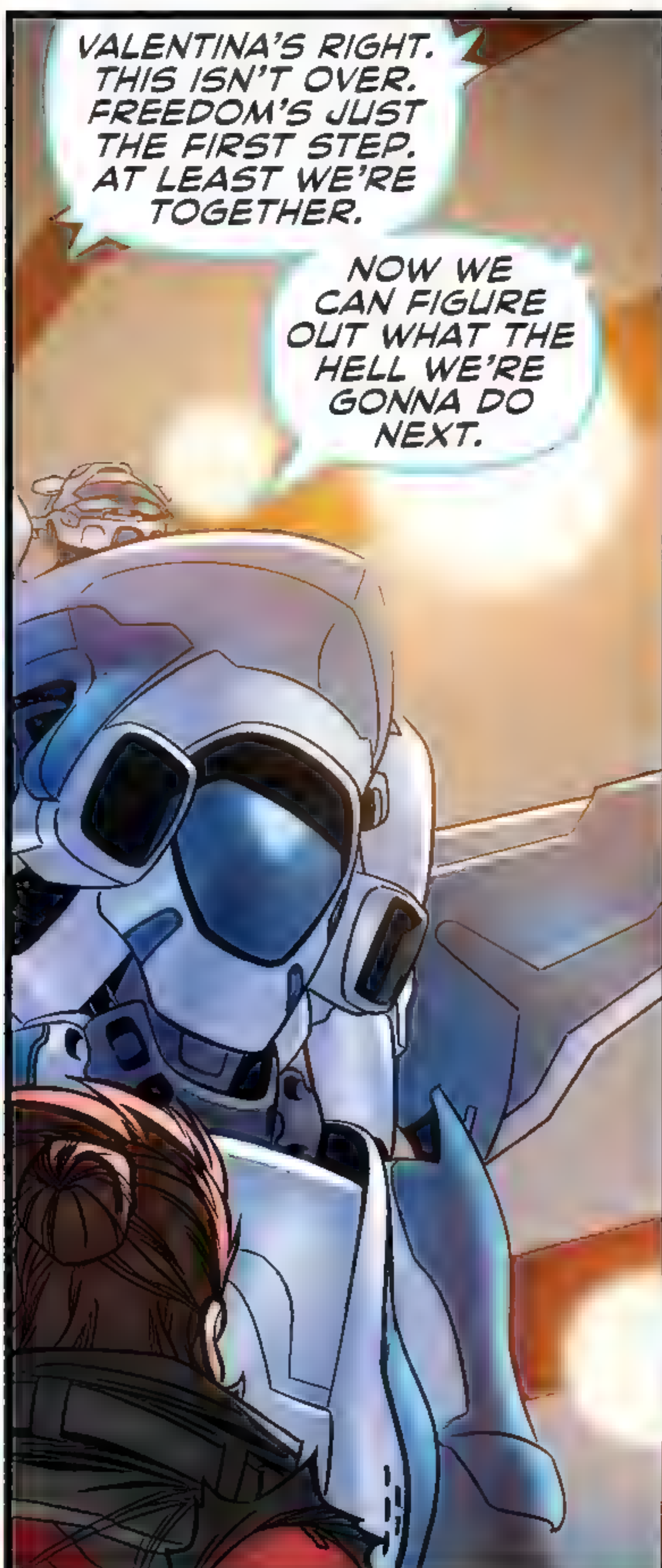


OH I'M GONNA PUT MY FOOT THROUGH THAT TWALLY'S SMUG LITTLE HEAD--

STAND DOWN, CAMMIE. WE'LL GET OUR HOLONS BACK.

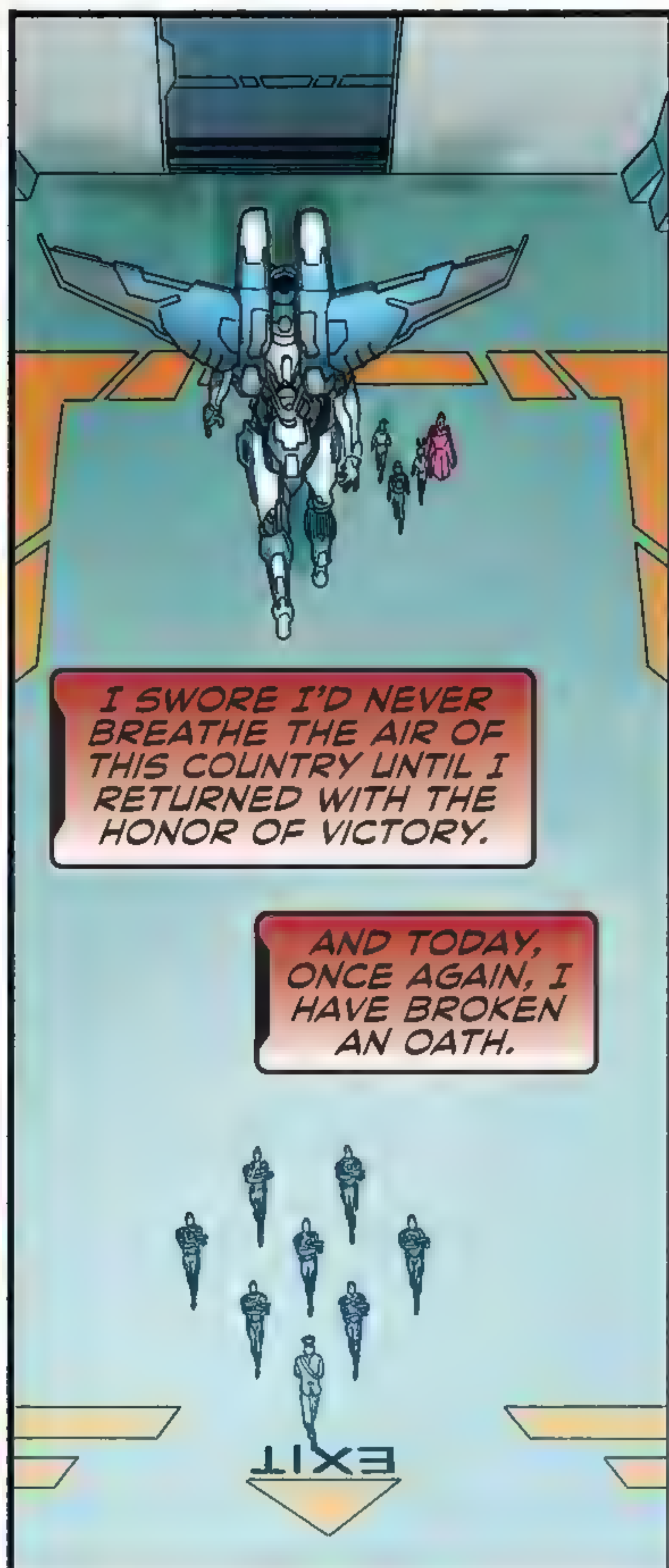
HE TOUCHES A HAIR ON MIGAS'S HEAD, I SWEAR TO CHRIST--

HE'LL ANSWER TO ALL OF US.



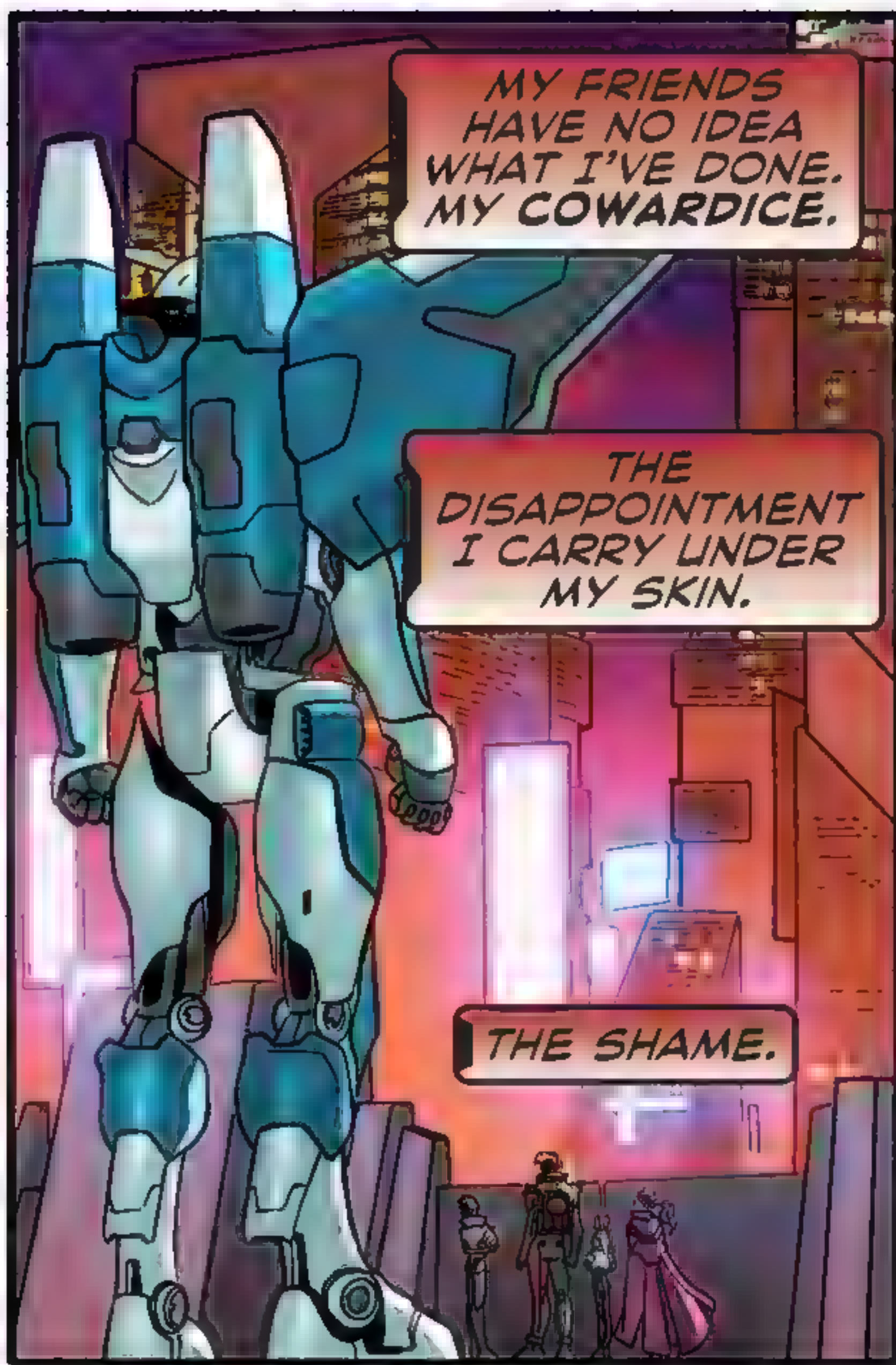
VALENTINA'S RIGHT. THIS ISN'T OVER. FREEDOM'S JUST THE FIRST STEP. AT LEAST WE'RE TOGETHER.

NOW WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL WE'RE GONNA DO NEXT.



I SWORE I'D NEVER BREATHE THE AIR OF THIS COUNTRY UNTIL I RETURNED WITH THE HONOR OF VICTORY.

AND TODAY, ONCE AGAIN, I HAVE BROKEN AN OATH.



MY FRIENDS
HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT I'VE DONE.
MY COWARDICE.

THE
DISAPPOINTMENT
I CARRY UNDER
MY SKIN.

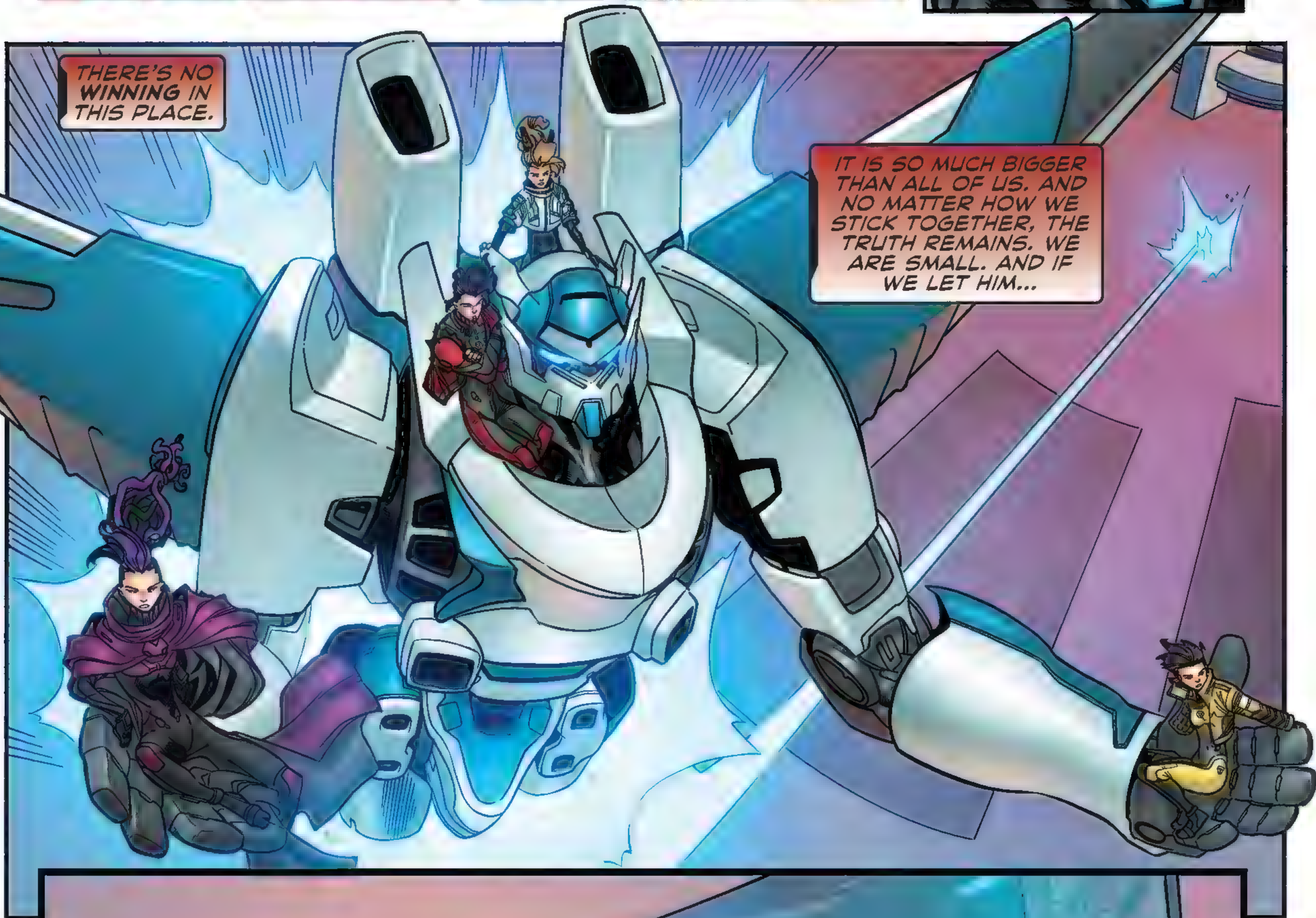
THE SHAME.



WHEN THEY ASK
ME TO TAKE THEM
HOME, THEY DO
NOT KNOW WHAT
THEY ARE ASKING.



THEY THINK THEY'VE
WON THIS BATTLE.
BUT THEY DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.



THERE'S NO
WINNING IN
THIS PLACE.

IT IS SO MUCH BIGGER
THAN ALL OF US. AND
NO MATTER HOW WE
STICK TOGETHER, THE
TRUTH REMAINS. WE
ARE SMALL. AND IF
WE LET HIM...



...ANNO WILL CRUSH
US UNDERFOOT.





0400 HOURS.

WHY IS
THE GEN:LOCK
TEAM TRULY
IN JAPAN?

I ALREADY
TOLD YOU, MAN.
WHOLE ISLAND'S
BLOCKADED BY
THE UNION,
THEY'RE HERE
TO *HELP*.

0600 HOURS.

WHO ORDERED
GEN:LOCK TEAM
TO SPY ON OUR
OPERATION?

WE'RE
NOT...SPIES.
WE'RE YOUR
ALLIES.

0900 HOURS.

WHAT IS
RTASA'S* TRUE
AGENDA?!

THEY'RE A
SPACE AGENCY.
WHAT DO YOU
THINK THEY DO,
ESTÚPIDO?

*RTASA STANDS FOR "ROGUE
TECHNOLOGY AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION."
--ANDREW

1300 HOURS.

WHAT IS
THE ACCESS
KEY FOR DR.
WELLER'S
SOURCE
CODE?

TU
MADRE.

1500 HOURS.

TELL ME
THE SECRET OF
GEN:LOCK!

NO.

1800 HOURS.

TELL ME
THE SECRET OF
GEN:LOCK!

WE JUST LEFT
MIGAS THERE.

BEHIND US.
WHILE WE RAN.

AND IT'S ALL
I CAN DO TO
KEEP MY EYES
LOOKING
FORWARD.

I TELL MYSELF THAT MIGAS IS A
PROFESSIONAL, MORE THAN ANY
OF US EXCEPT CHASE. HE KNOWS
HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
HE'S VANGUARD, TRAINED WITHIN
AN INCH OF HIS LIFE.

BUT THEN I REMEMBER HOW
DOC WELLER WAS AS SMART
AND CAPABLE AS THEY COME.
AND HOW THAT DIDN'T STOP
HIM FROM DYING IN THE ANVIL.

HOW CHASE HAD
TRAINING, AND THAT
DIDN'T STOP HIM--OR
SOME PART OF HIM
ANYWAY--FROM
BECOMING NEMESIS.

I'M JUST SOME GIRL
FROM GLASGOW. THE
HELL AM I SUPPOSED
TO DO...

NOT
MUCH
FARTHER
NOW.

game:OVER

COLLIN KELLY and JACKSON LANZING writers
HENDRY PRASETYA artist
PROTOBUNKER colors TOM NAPOLITANO letters
DAN MORA cover ANDREW MARINO editor

...EXCEPT KEEP RUNNING?

ANYTHING YOU
WANT TO WARN US
ABOUT, KAZU? YOU
HAVEN'T EXACTLY
GIVEN US MUCH TO
GO ON ABOUT THIS
SAFE HOUSE
OF YOURS.

YOU'LL
KNOW SOON
ENOUGH.

YOU
KNOW, EVER
SINCE WE GOT
TO JAPAN, YOU'VE
BEEN A REAL
DICK ABOUT
THINGS.

YOU USED
TO BE THE
RULE-BREAKING
HELL-RAISER,
NOW YOU'RE
JUST A SULKING
SADBOI!

WHAT'S
EATING YOU,
KAZU? YOU
CAN TELL US.

HUSH NOW.
PREPARE
YOURSELVES--
I SEE A
LIGHT.

KAZU!

KAZU,
IS THAT
YOU?!

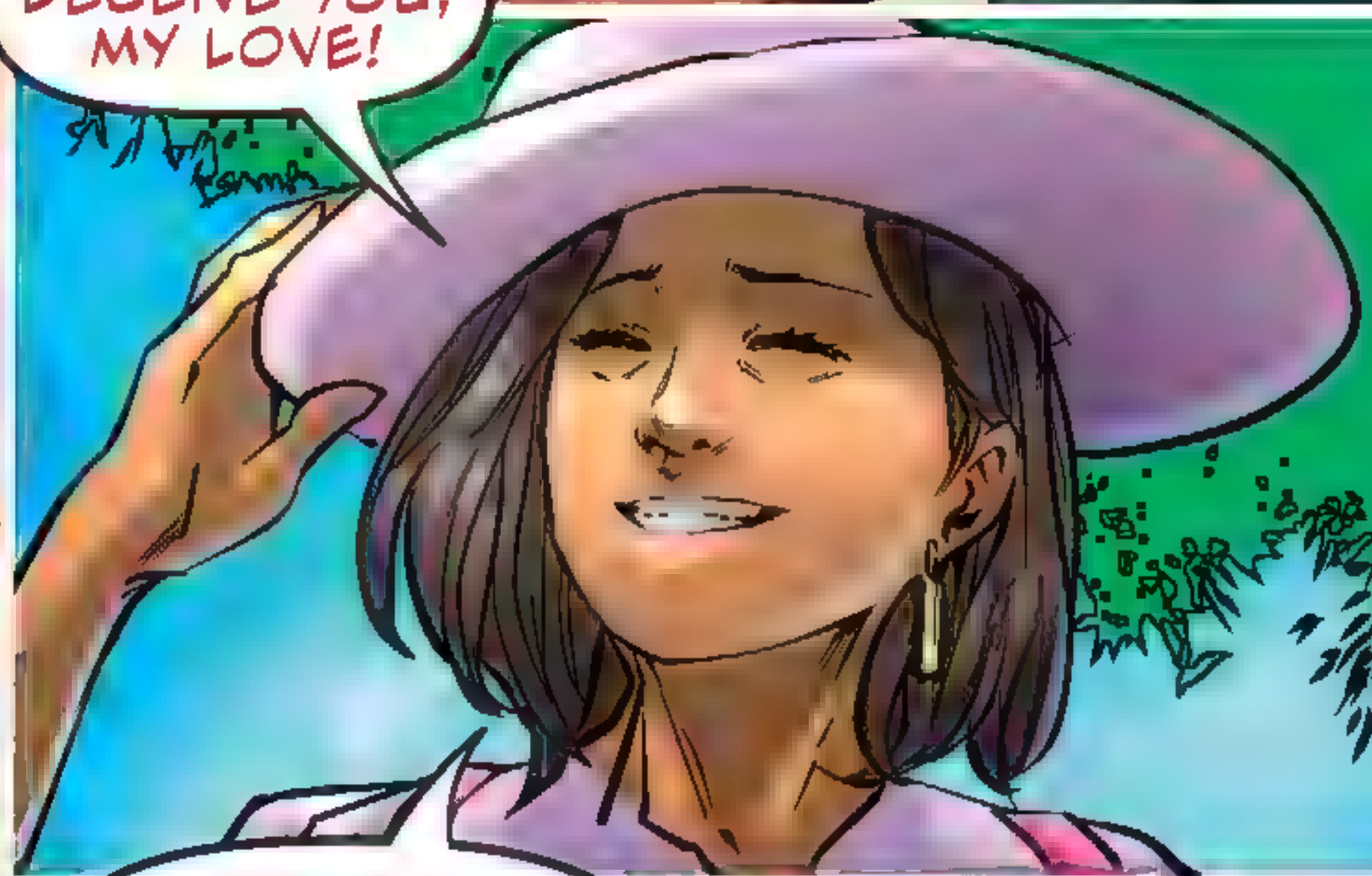


WHAT A
MOMENTOUS
DAY! OUR
BEAUTIFUL SON
IS **HOME!**

ARE
YOU SEEING
THIS, ZARIKU?
OR AM I JUST
HAVING VESTIGIAL
HALLUCINATIONS
FROM BEING IN
THE ETHER SO
LONG?



YOUR
EYES DON'T
DECEIVE YOU,
MY LOVE!



KAZU
IS **BACK** WITH
US, SHINING FACE
AND ALL! AND HE'S
BROUGHT HIS
FRIENDS!



MOOOOOOOOMMM...



OH,
THIS IS
GONNA BE
GOOD.



WELCOME TO OUR HUMBLE HOME! I AM TOSHIRO IIDA.

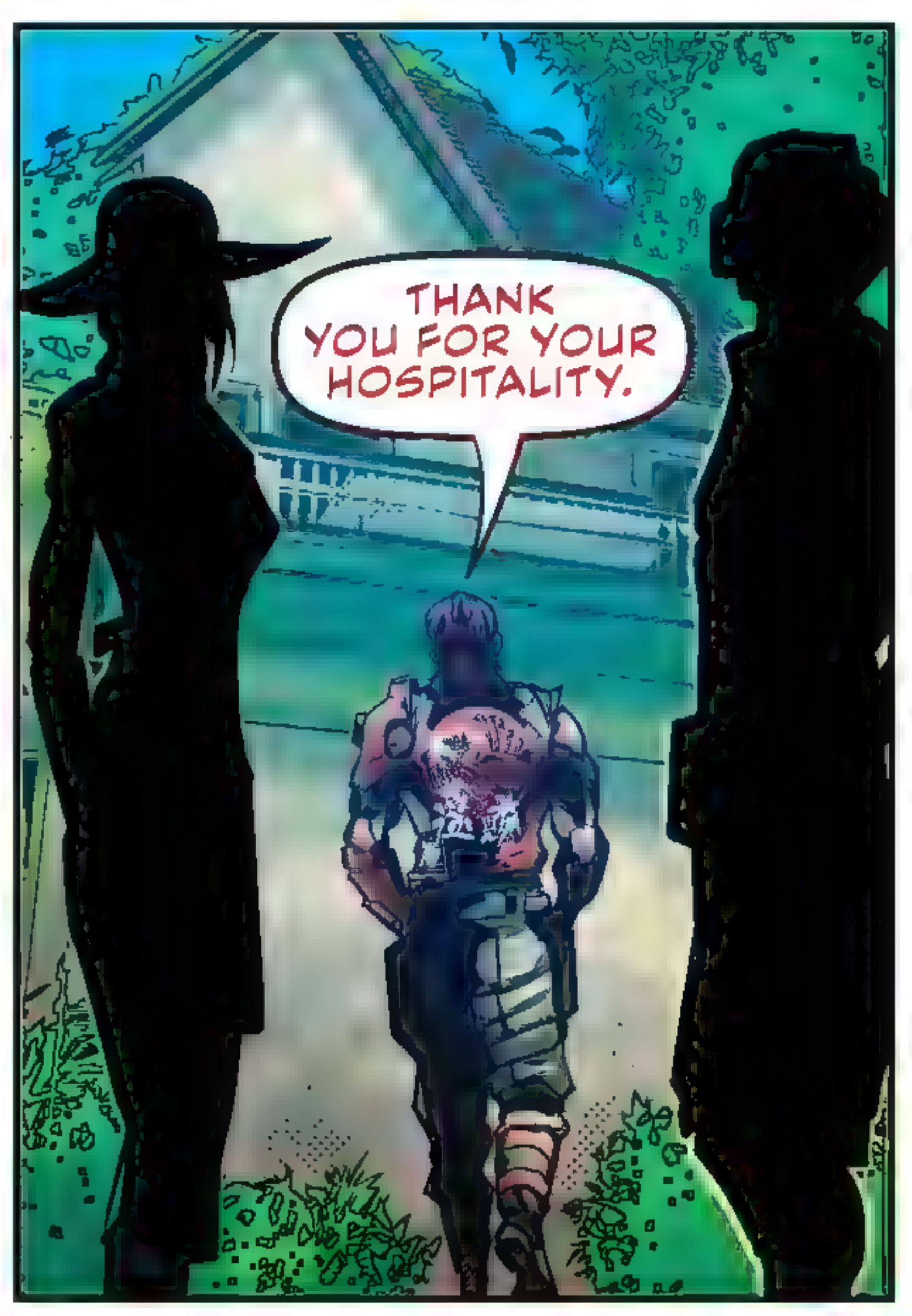
AND I AM ZARIKU IIDA!

AND IT IS SUCH A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU ALL.

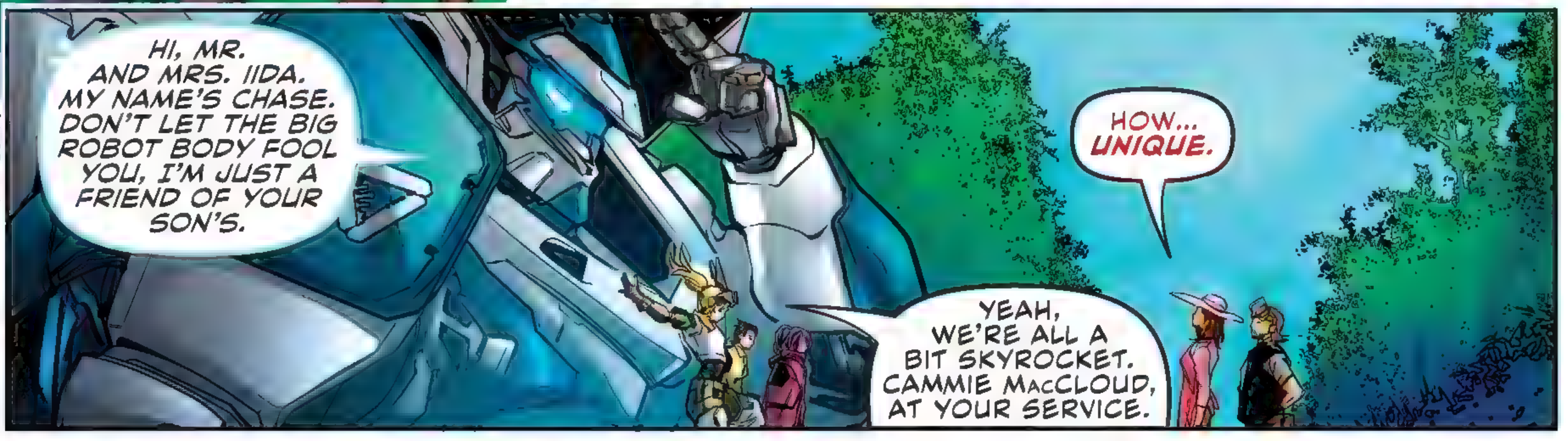
BUT ESPECIALLY OUR BEAUTIFUL SON! KAZU, IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG! ARE YOU HUNGRY? YOUR FATHER WOULD LOVE TO COOK FOR YOU!



MOTHER. FATHER.



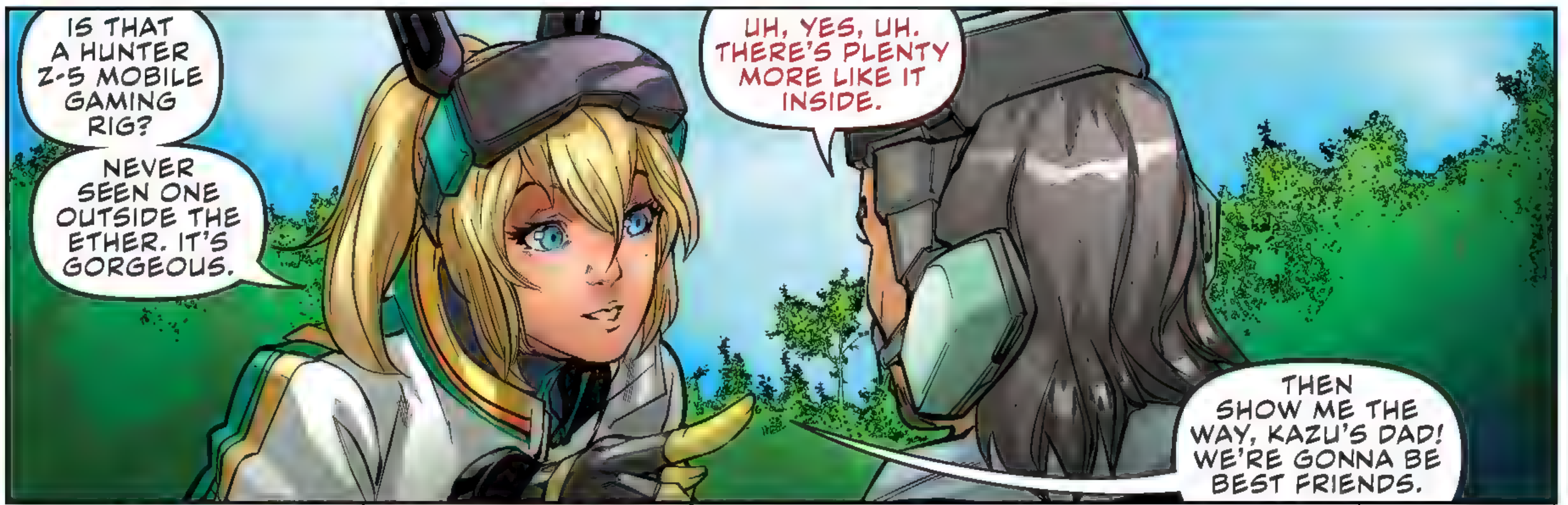
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.



HI, MR. AND MRS. IIDA. MY NAME'S CHASE. DON'T LET THE BIG ROBOT BODY FOOL YOU, I'M JUST A FRIEND OF YOUR SON'S.

HOW... **UNIQUE.**

YEAH, WE'RE ALL A BIT SKYROCKET. CAMMIE MACCLOUD, AT YOUR SERVICE.



IS THAT A HUNTER Z-S MOBILE GAMING RIG?

NEVER SEEN ONE OUTSIDE THE ETHER. IT'S GORGEOUS.

UH, YES, UH. THERE'S PLENTY MORE LIKE IT INSIDE.

THEN SHOW ME THE WAY, KAZU'S DAD! WE'RE GONNA BE BEST FRIENDS.



OF COURSE! PLEASE, COME INSIDE. SHOES OFF! AND THE GIANT ROBOT CAN STAY ON THE LAWN.



DID SHE SAY ZARIKU IIDA?

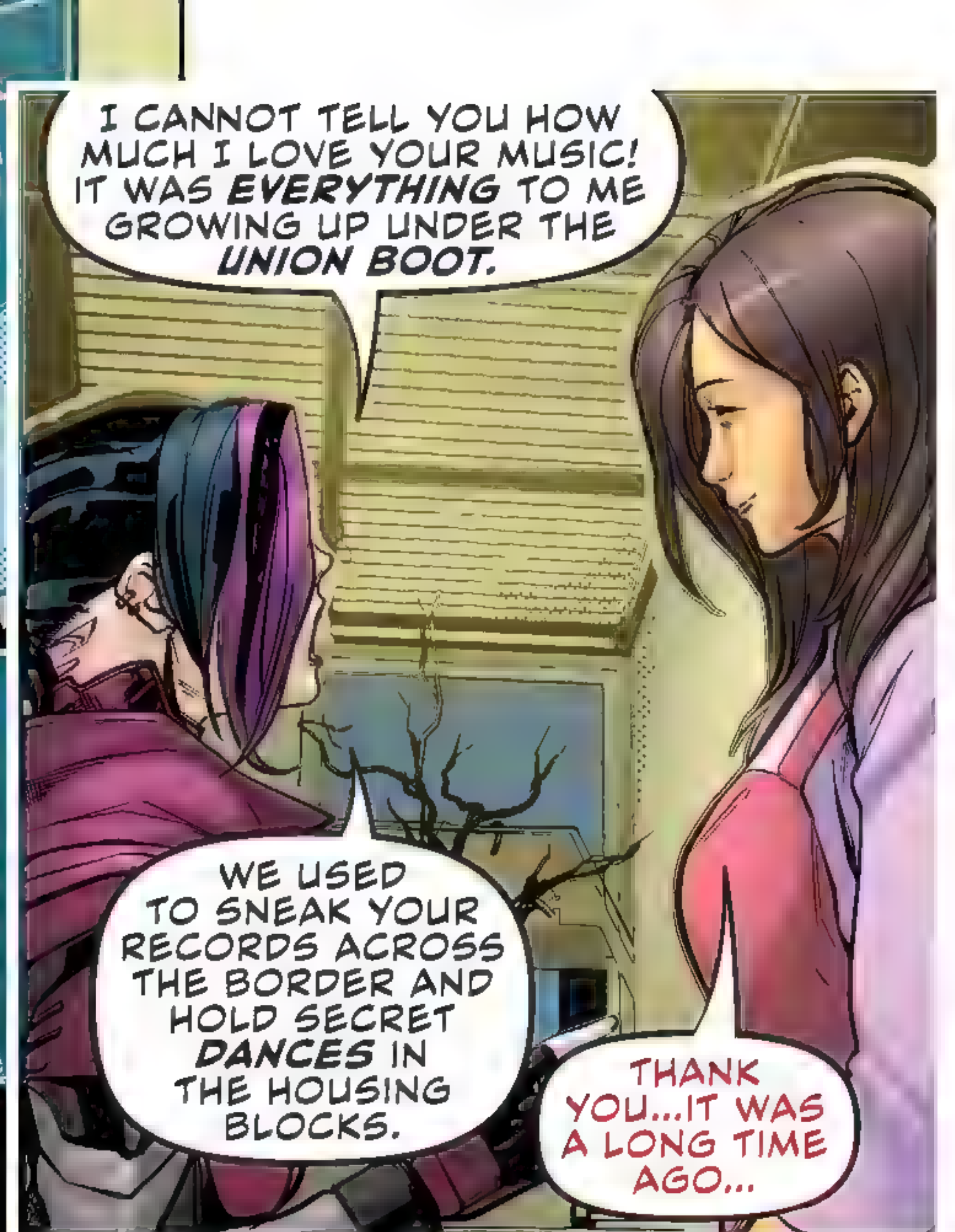
YEAH, VALENTINA. WHY? DO YOU KNOW HER?

NO... I MEAN, YES, BUT... IT CAN'T BE...



OH MY
GOSH IT
CAN BE!

KAZU'S
MOM IS RIKU THE
RELENTLESS!



I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW
MUCH I LOVE YOUR MUSIC!
IT WAS **EVERYTHING** TO ME
GROWING UP UNDER THE
UNION BOOT.

WE USED
TO SNEAK YOUR
RECORDS ACROSS
THE BORDER AND
HOLD SECRET
DANCES IN
THE HOUSING
BLOCKS.

THANK
YOU...IT WAS
A LONG TIME
AGO...



ABSURD!
YOU'RE
TIMELESS!

YOU'RE
TOO KIND.

THE
REST OF
YOU, COME
WITH ME.



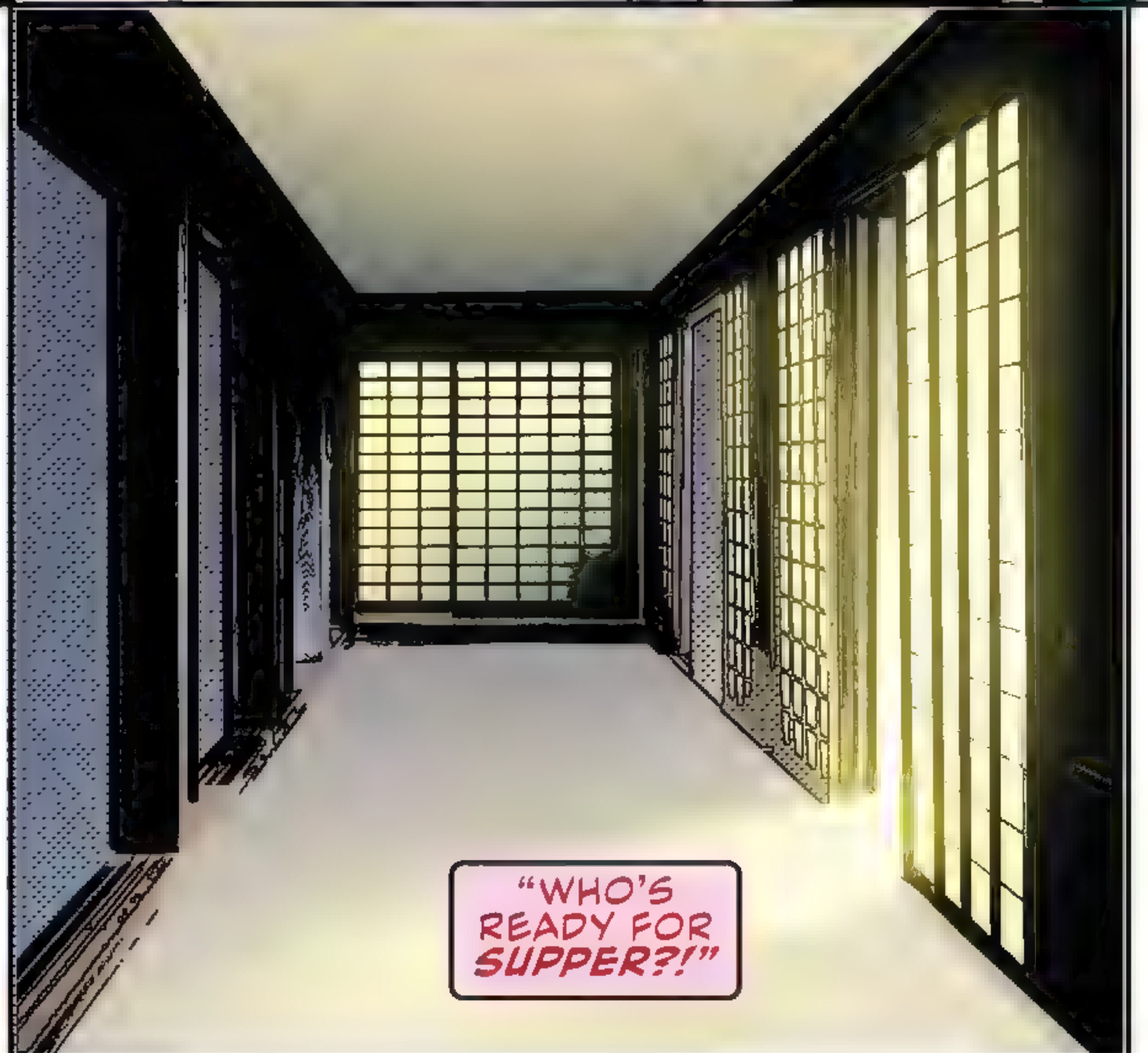
YOU CAN STAY
HERE. DO NOT
SCUFF THE
WALLS.

WE'LL TREAT
YOUR HOME LIKE
IT WAS OUR OWN,
KAZU. THANK
YOU.

NO
NEED TO
THANK
ME.



THIS
ISN'T MY
HOME.



"WHO'S
READY FOR
SUPPER?!"



I HOPE I MADE ENOUGH!

FOR ME, SURE! BUT WHAT'S FOR EVERYONE ELSE?

CAMMIE.

WHAT? I'M FAMISHED! AND KAZU'S DAD IS APPARENTLY A MAGICIAN IN THE KITCHEN!

EAT MINE, THEN. I...DON'T HAVE MUCH OF AN APPETITE.



YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT MIGAS, AREN'T YOU?

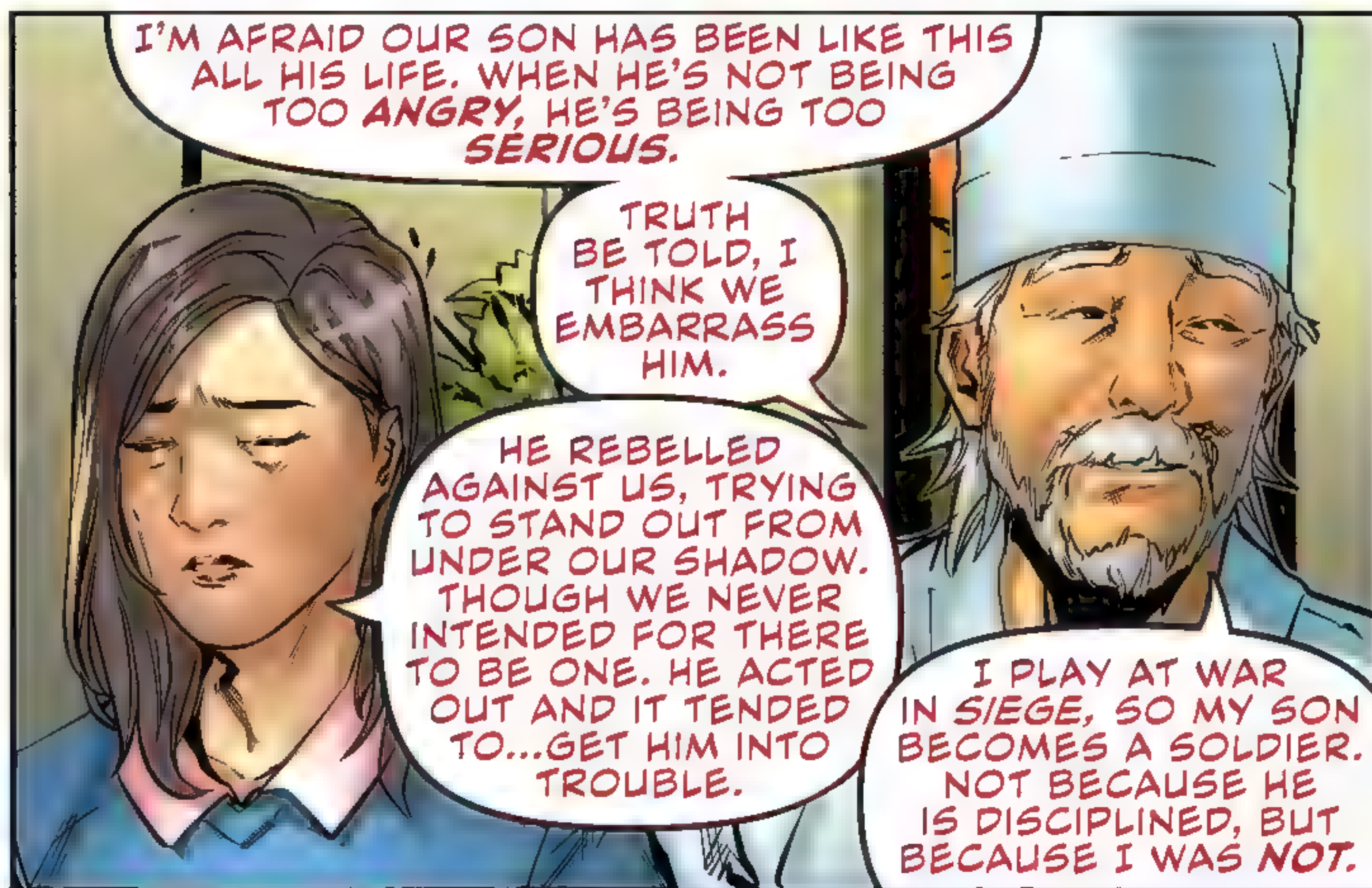
...THEY WILL BREAK HIM.

MIGASH ISH THE TOUGHESHT HOMBRE IN VANGUARD. SURE, HE'SH NICE, AND FUNNY...

...BUT HE'S STRONG. HE'LL HOLD. AND WE WILL GET HIM OUT.



UNLIKE KAZU, WHO CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO JOIN US.



I'M AFRAID OUR SON HAS BEEN LIKE THIS ALL HIS LIFE. WHEN HE'S NOT BEING TOO ANGRY, HE'S BEING TOO SERIOUS.

TRUTH BE TOLD, I THINK WE EMBARRASS HIM.

HE REBELLED AGAINST US, TRYING TO STAND OUT FROM UNDER OUR SHADOW. THOUGH WE NEVER INTENDED FOR THERE TO BE ONE. HE ACTED OUT AND IT TENDED TO...GET HIM INTO TROUBLE.

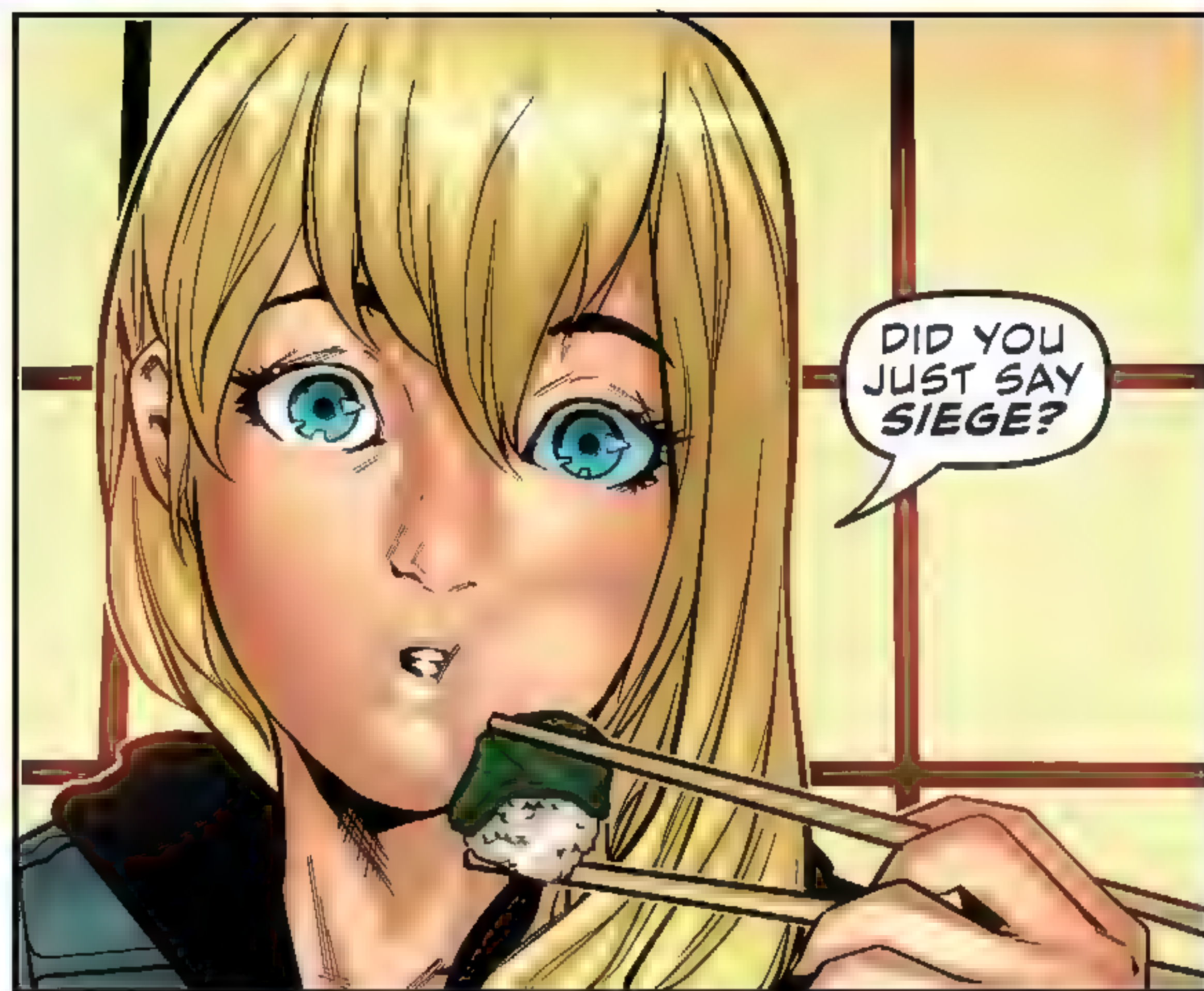
I PLAY AT WAR IN SIEGE, SO MY SON BECOMES A SOLDIER. NOT BECAUSE HE IS DISCIPLINED, BUT BECAUSE I WAS NOT.



YEAH. BUT SOMETIMES YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GOT TILL IT'S GONE.

HE'LL COME AROUND.

WAIT, ROLL THAT BACK, DADDY KAZU.



DID YOU JUST SAY SIEGE?

I TRY TO LET IT GO. I REALLY DO.

BUT THE DREAMS STILL COME.



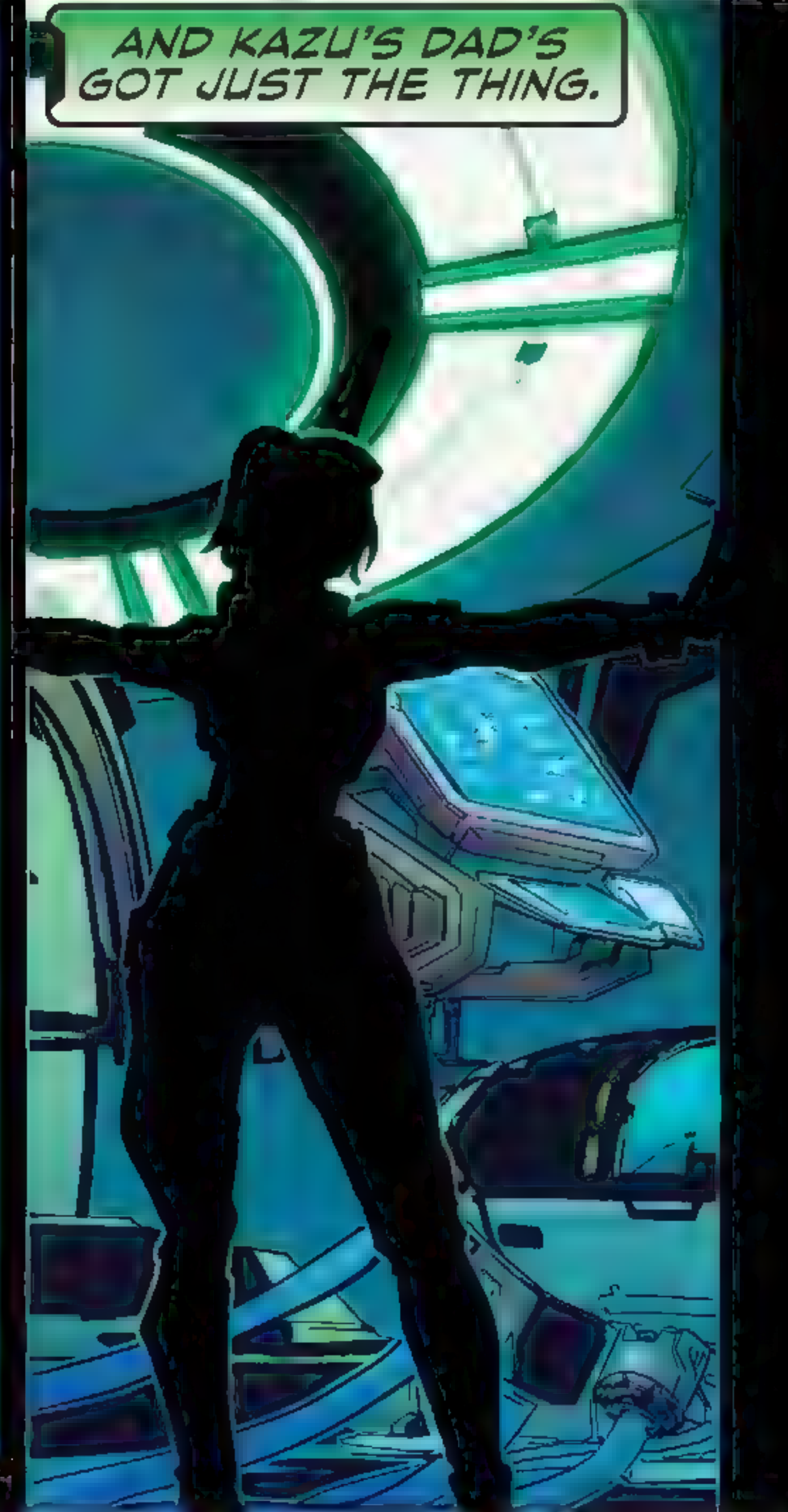
NEMESIS.

DEATH.

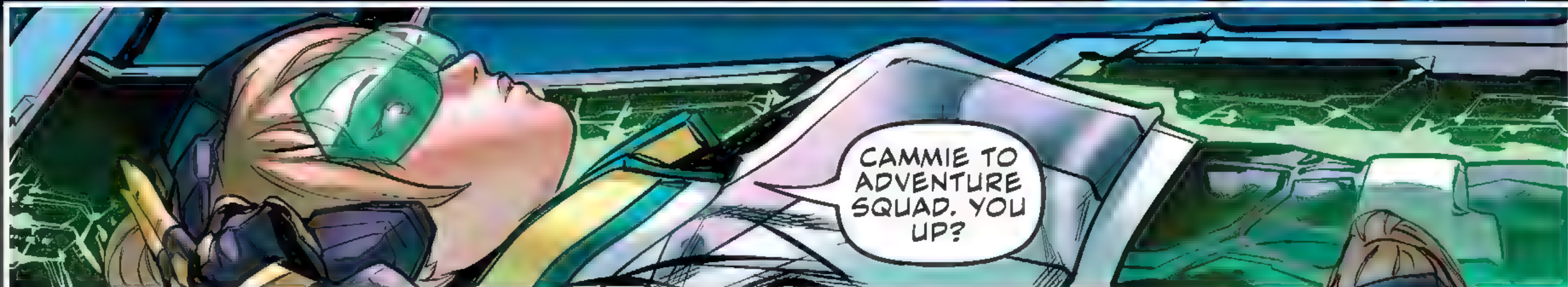
MIGAS.



I NEED TO GET MY HEAD RIGHT.



AND KAZU'S DAD'S GOT JUST THE THING.



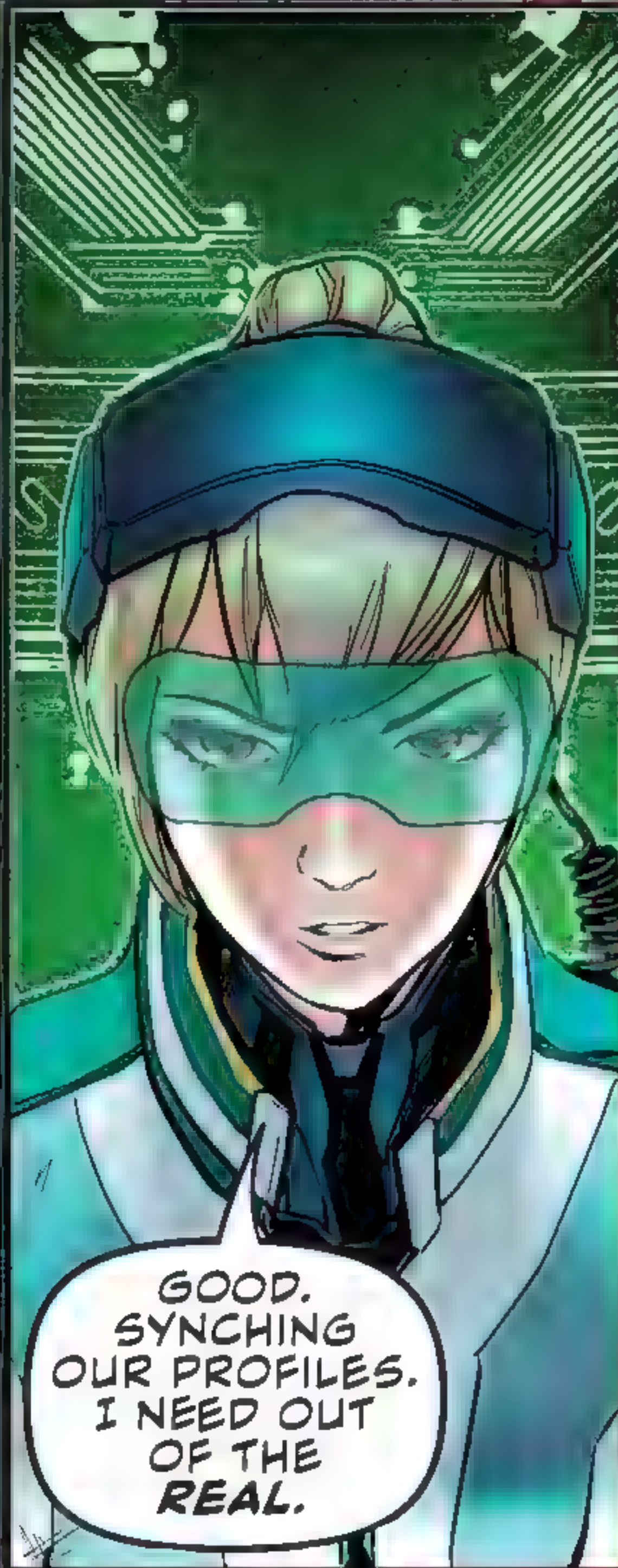
CAMMIE TO ADVENTURE SQUAD. YOU UP?



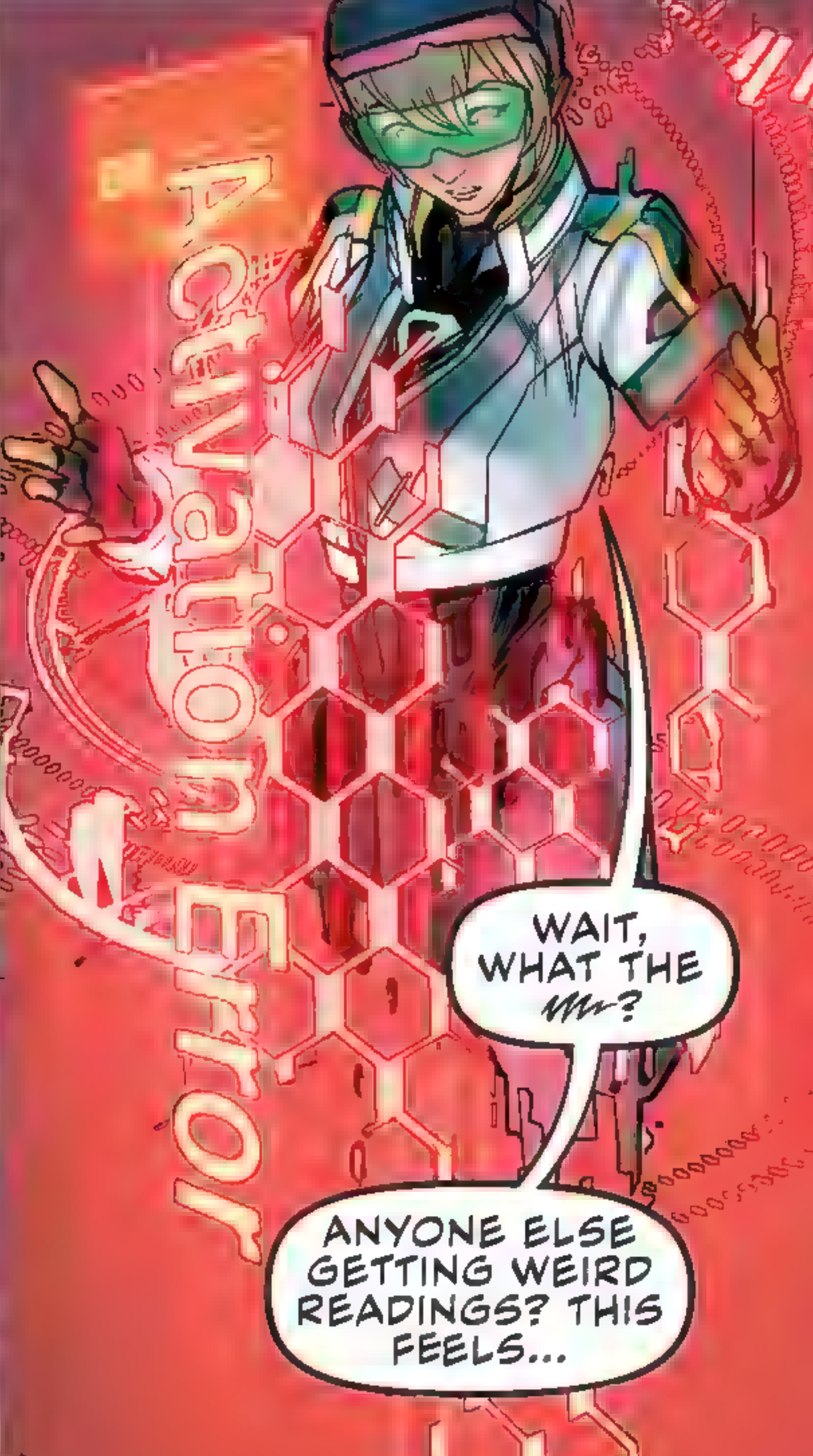
NO NEED FOR SLEEP.



NOWHERE TO GO.



GOOD. SYNCHING OUR PROFILES. I NEED OUT OF THE REAL.



WAIT, WHAT THE *W*?

ANYONE ELSE GETTING WEIRD READINGS? THIS FEELS...



...NEW.

UH, CAMMIE?
WHAT THE HELL
IS THIS PLACE?
WHERE'D YOU
LOAD US
INTO?

I DIDN'T
DO THIS,
CHASE.

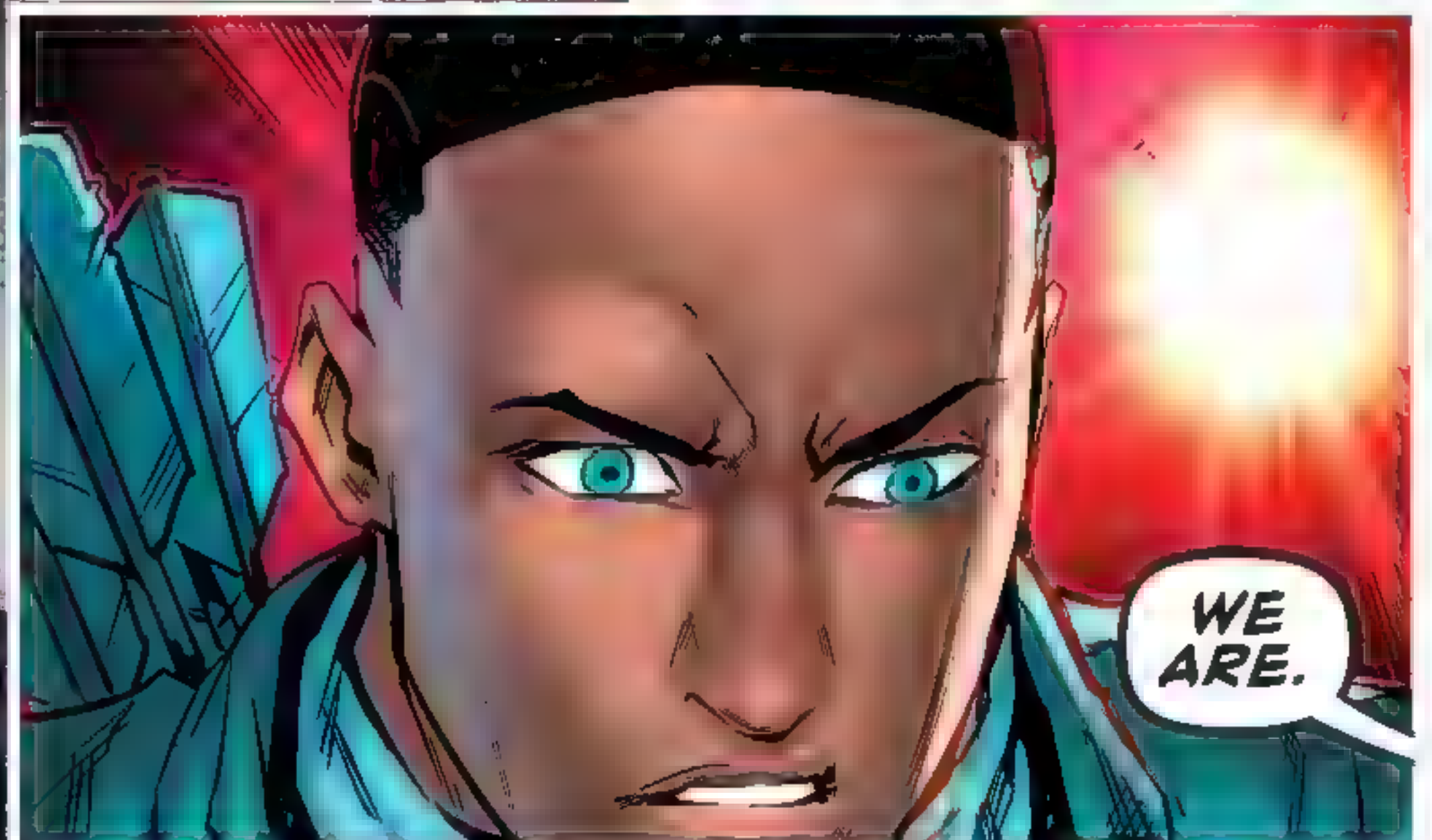
SO YOU'RE
SAYING, WHAT?
THE GAME JUST
GLITCHED?

NO.
WHAT I'M
SAYING...



...IS
WE'RE NOT
IN CONTROL
RIGHT NOW.

THEN
WHO THE
HELL IS?



WE
ARE.



YOU SOUGHT TO
FIND THE MYST'RY
QUEST--REJOICE,
WE BRING YOUR
FINAL TEST.

IN
BUT A BLINK
WE'LL MAKE YOU
BLEED AND IN
THAT PAIN, WE'LL
PLANT THE
SEED

OF
TRUTH, OF
SECRETS LONG
HELD DOWN, OF
WHISPERS NOT
MEANT TO BE
FOUND...



...THE
TRAP IS
SET.



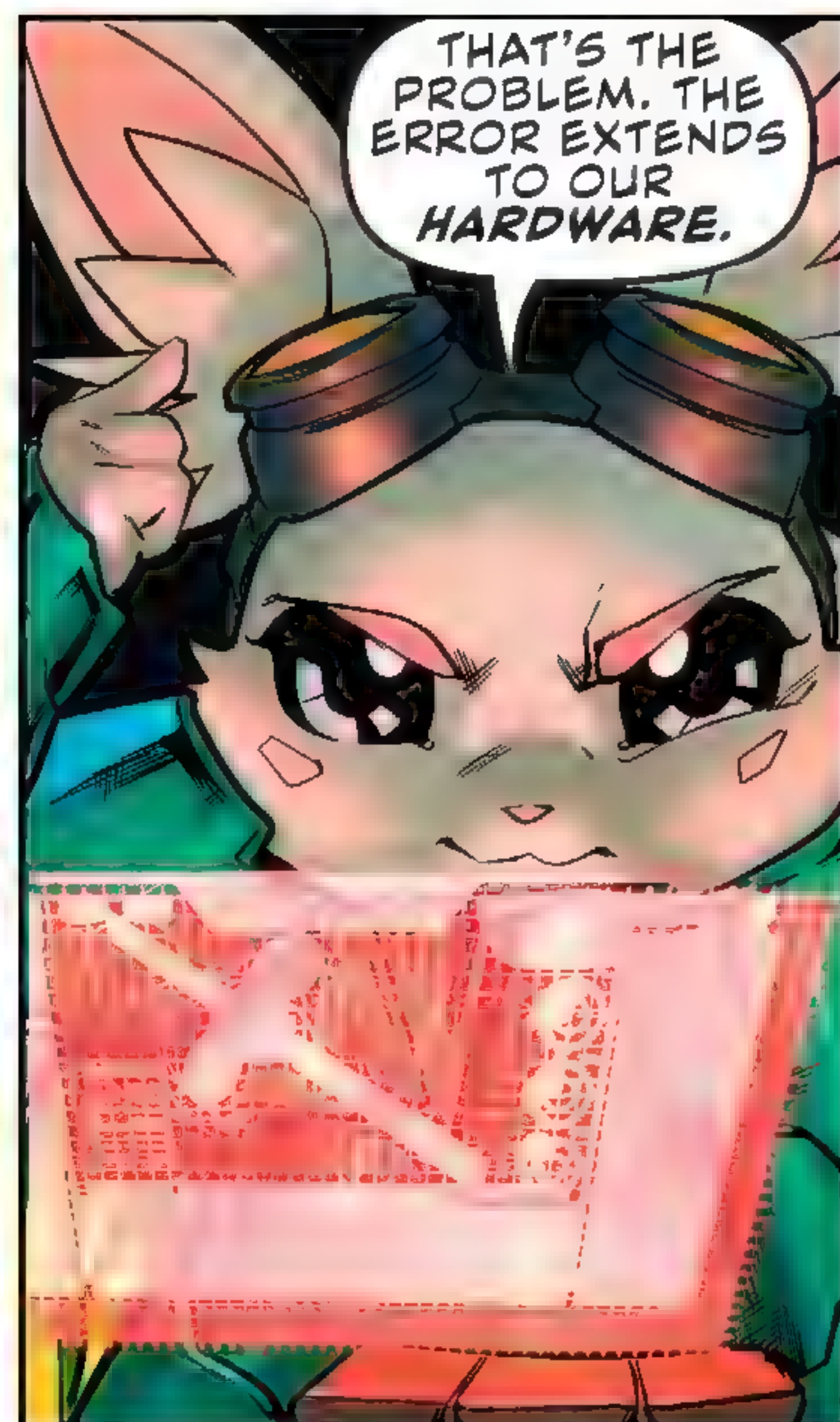
SO'S OUR
ATTACK.



NOW
ALL THAT'S
LEFT...

SYCORAX.





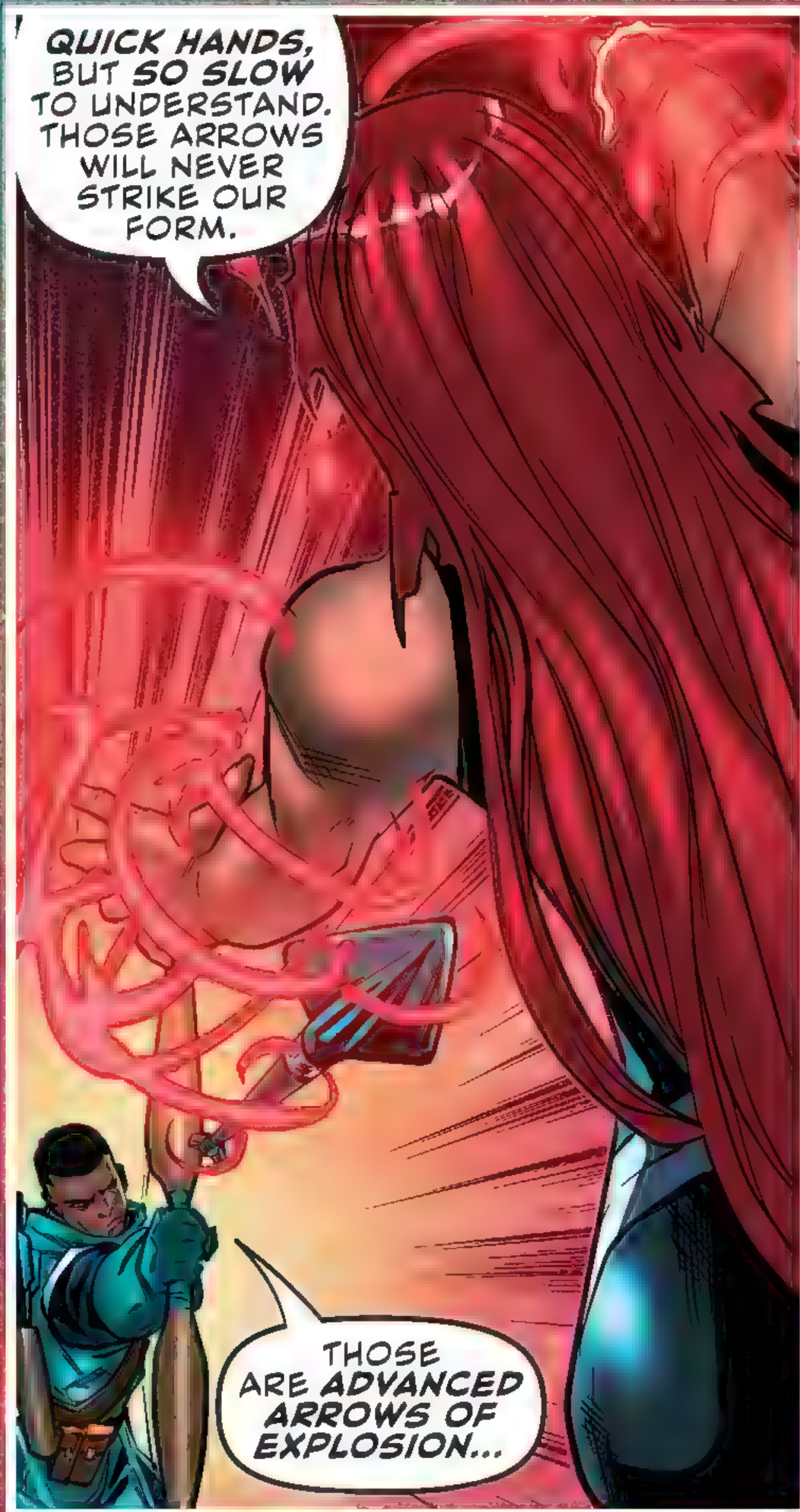


STUCK INSIDE SIEGE,
WHICH SHOULD BE
SOME KIND OF DREAM
FOR ME BUT I GUESS
YOU NEVER KNOW.



WE'RE CUT OFF FROM THE REAL WORLD.
PULLED INTO WHATEVER THE HELL KIND
OF TRAP THESE GLITCHED-OUT TOSSERS
HAVE SET UP FOR US. NO IDEA WHAT
WE'RE FACING OR HOW TO FACE IT.

ALL THAT'S
LEFT IS THE
FIGHT.

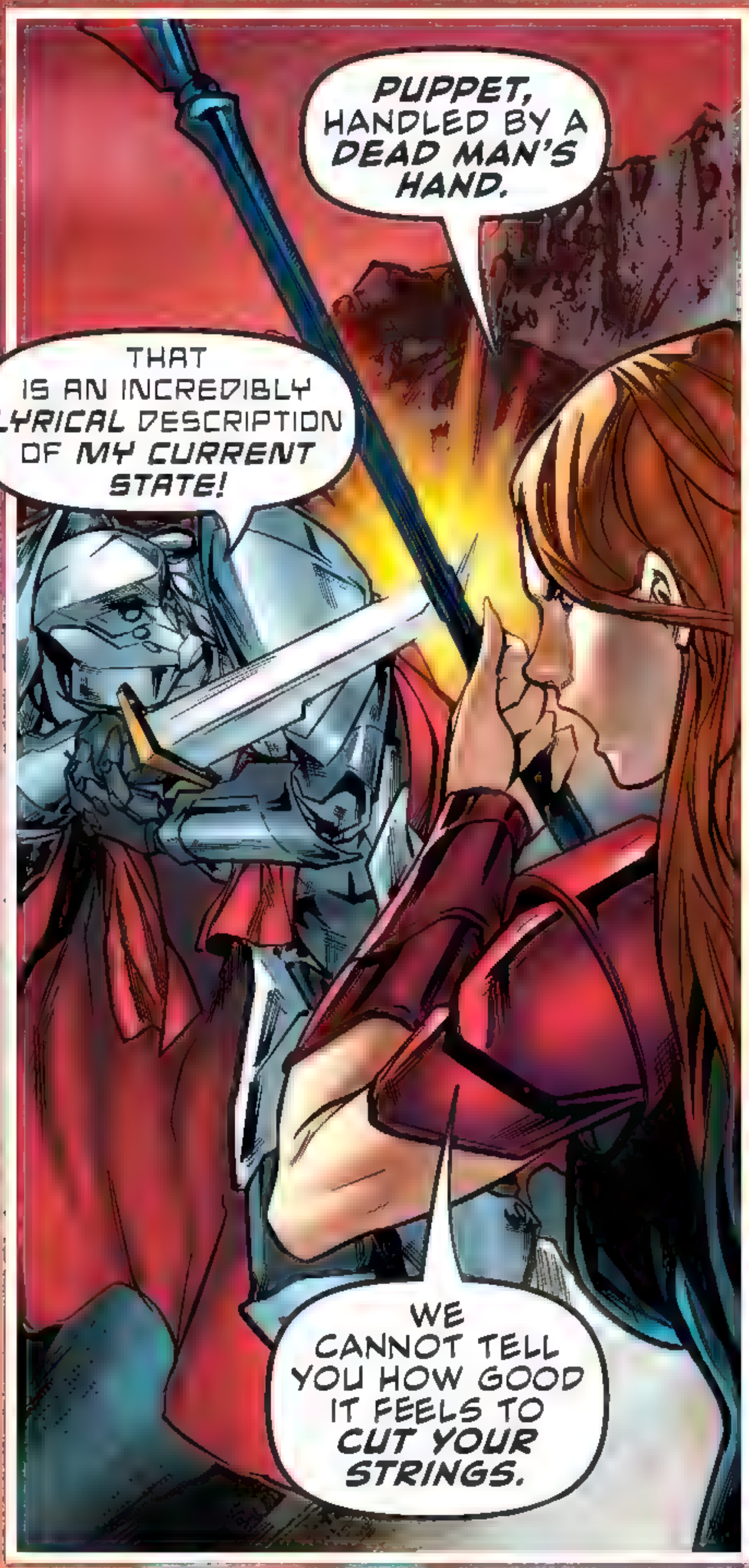


QUICK HANDS,
BUT SO SLOW
TO UNDERSTAND.
THOSE ARROWS
WILL NEVER
STRIKE OUR
FORM.

THOSE
ARE ADVANCED
ARROWS OF
EXPLOSION...



...SO
THEY DON'T
NEED TO.



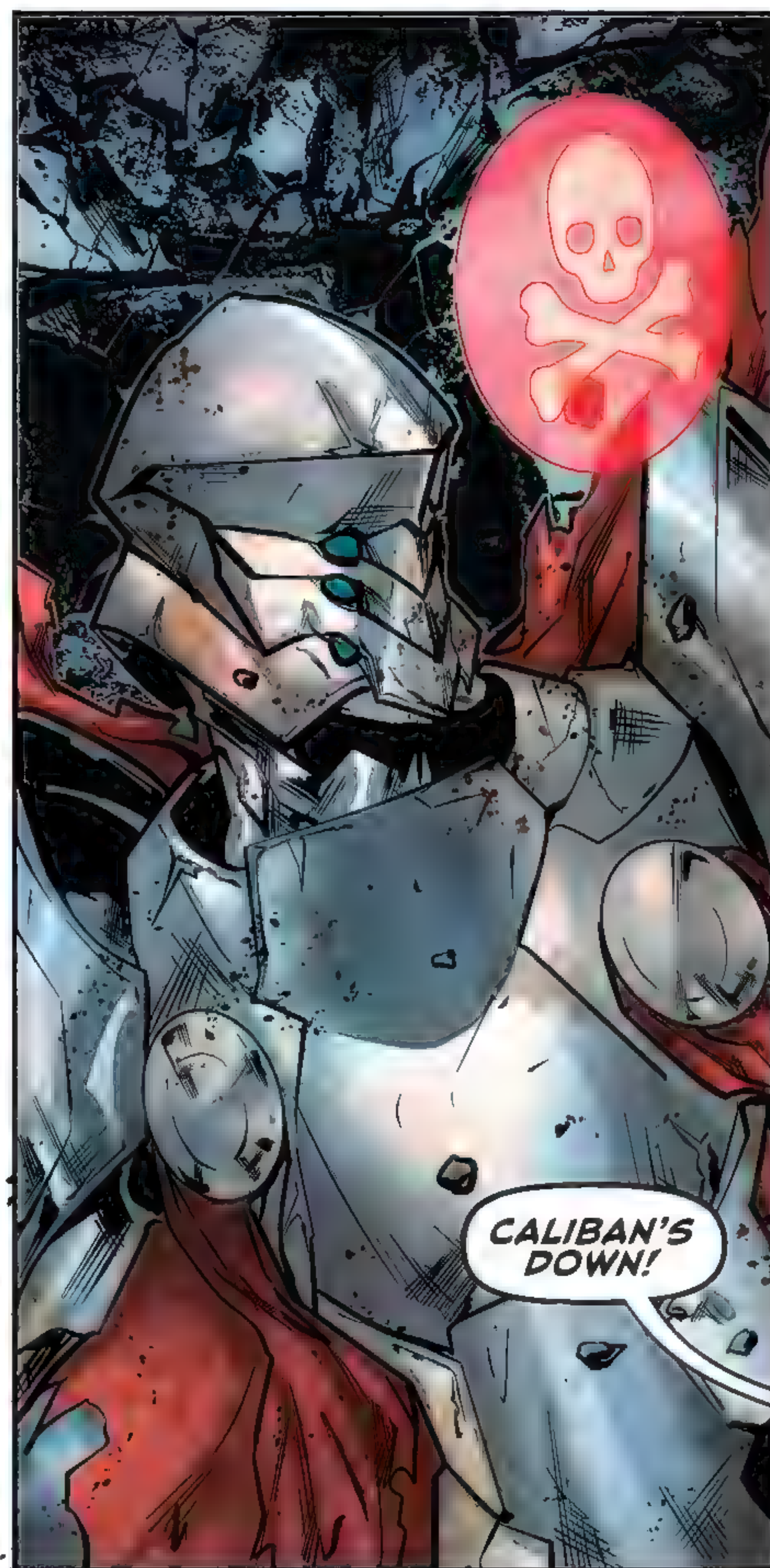
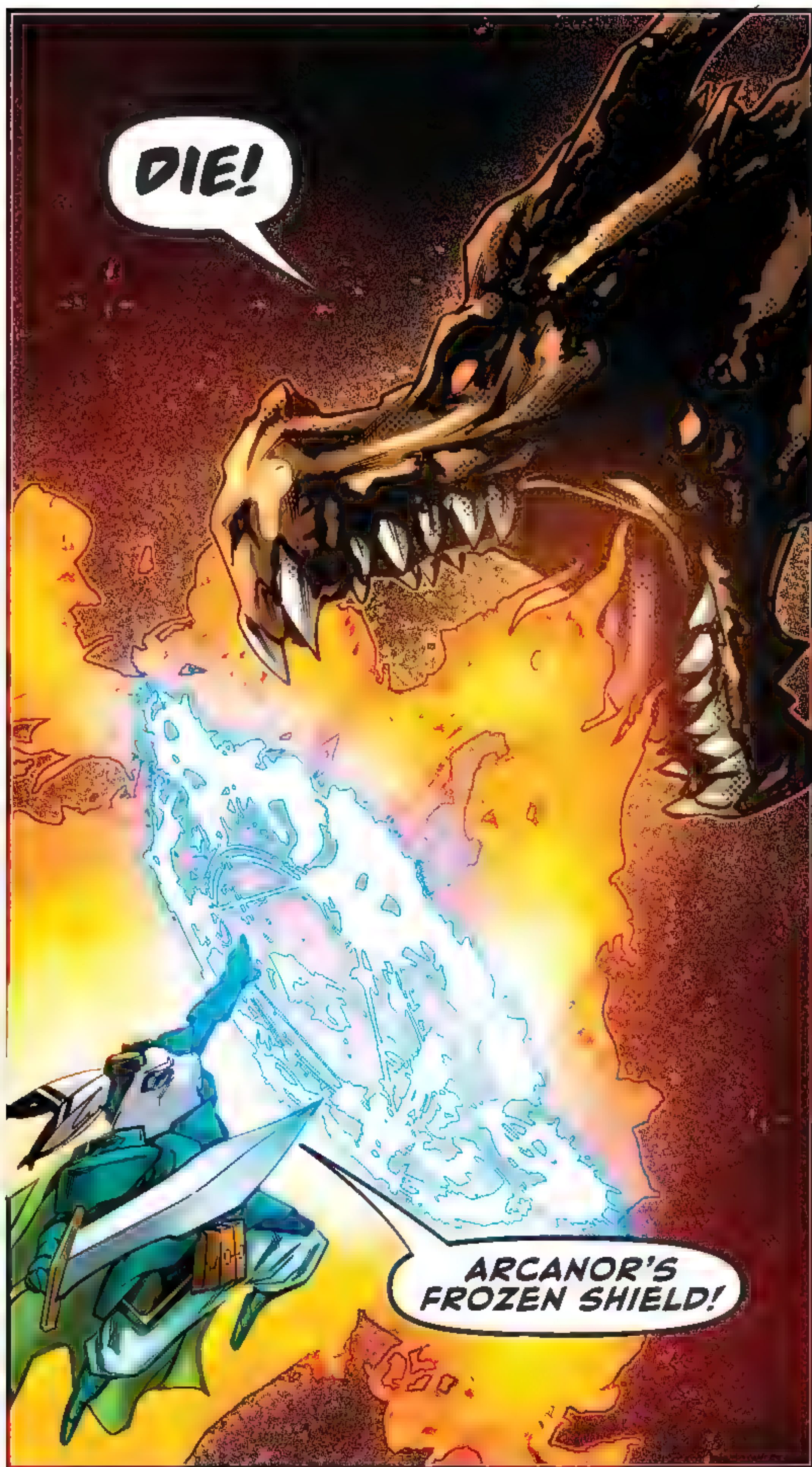
PUPPET,
HANDLED BY A
DEAD MAN'S
HAND.

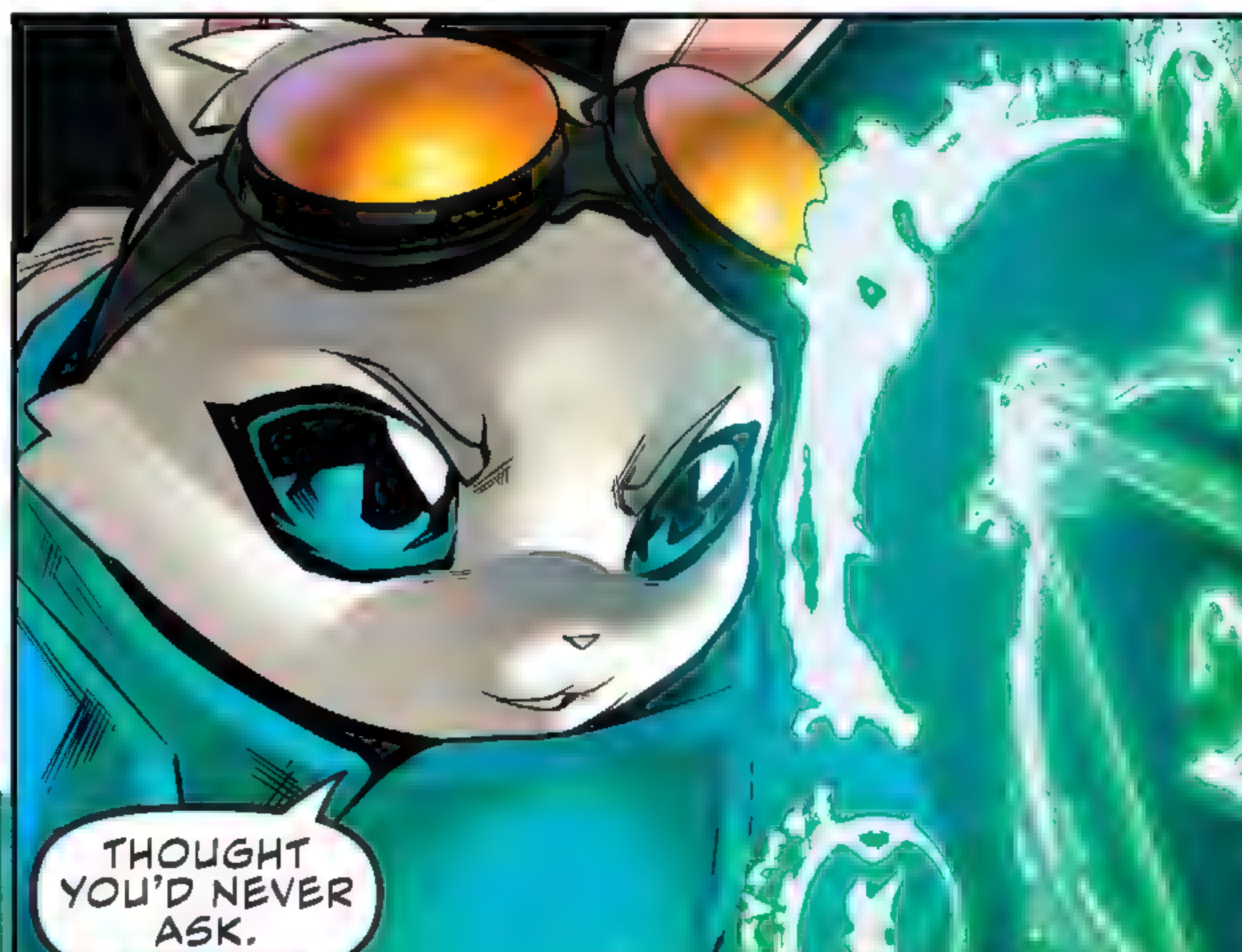
THAT
IS AN INCREDIBLY
LYRICAL DESCRIPTION
OF MY CURRENT
STATE!

WE
CANNOT TELL
YOU HOW GOOD
IT FEELS TO
CUT YOUR
STRINGS.



WE'VE
BEEN WAITING
SO VERY LONG
FOR THIS.





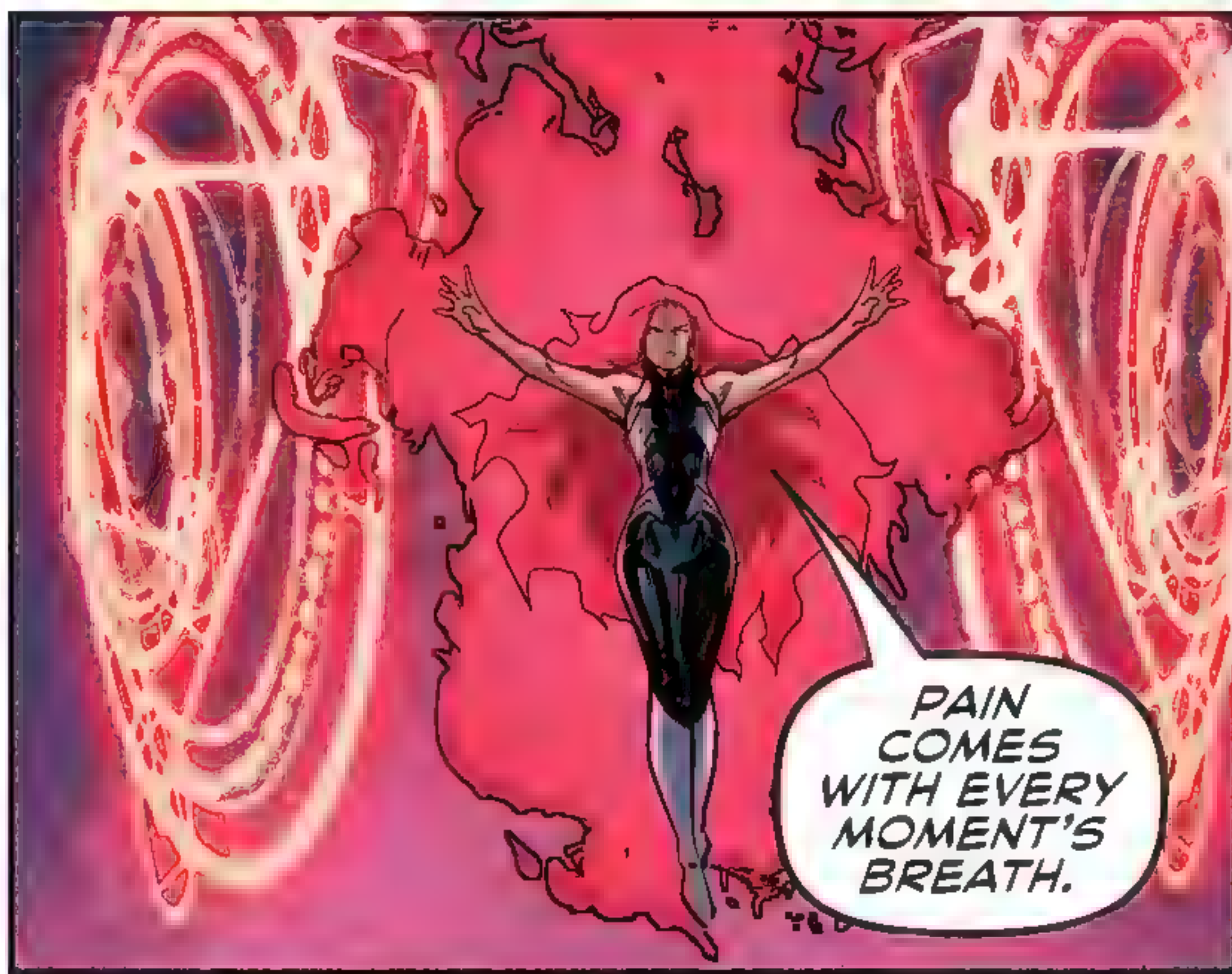


THIS IS MY ONLY DRAGON-SLAYER ARROW. I WAS SAVING IT FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL.



SCRAHH!

BUT I GUESS YOU'LL DO.

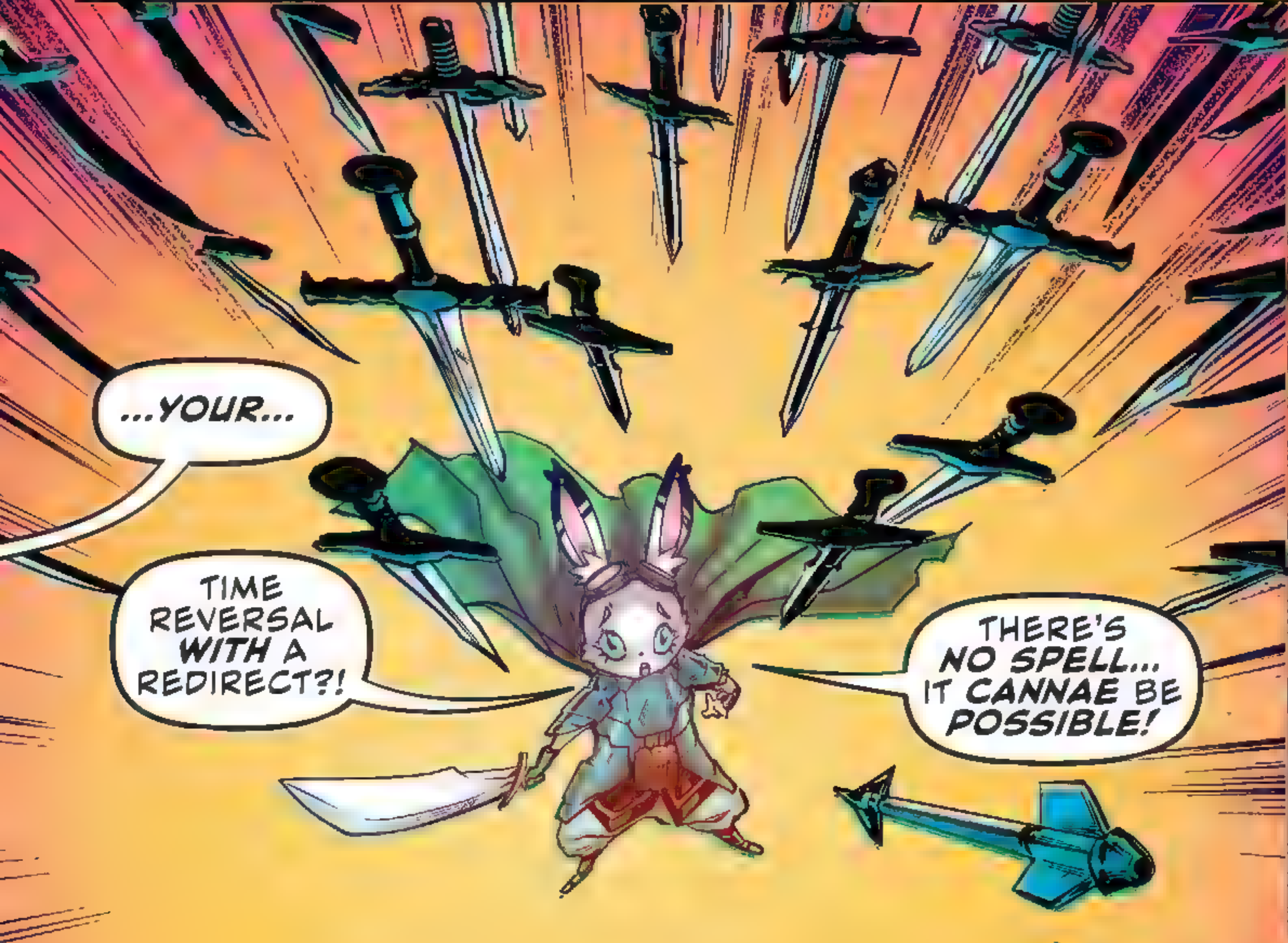


PAIN COMES WITH EVERY MOMENT'S BREATH.



REVERSE THIS PAIN.

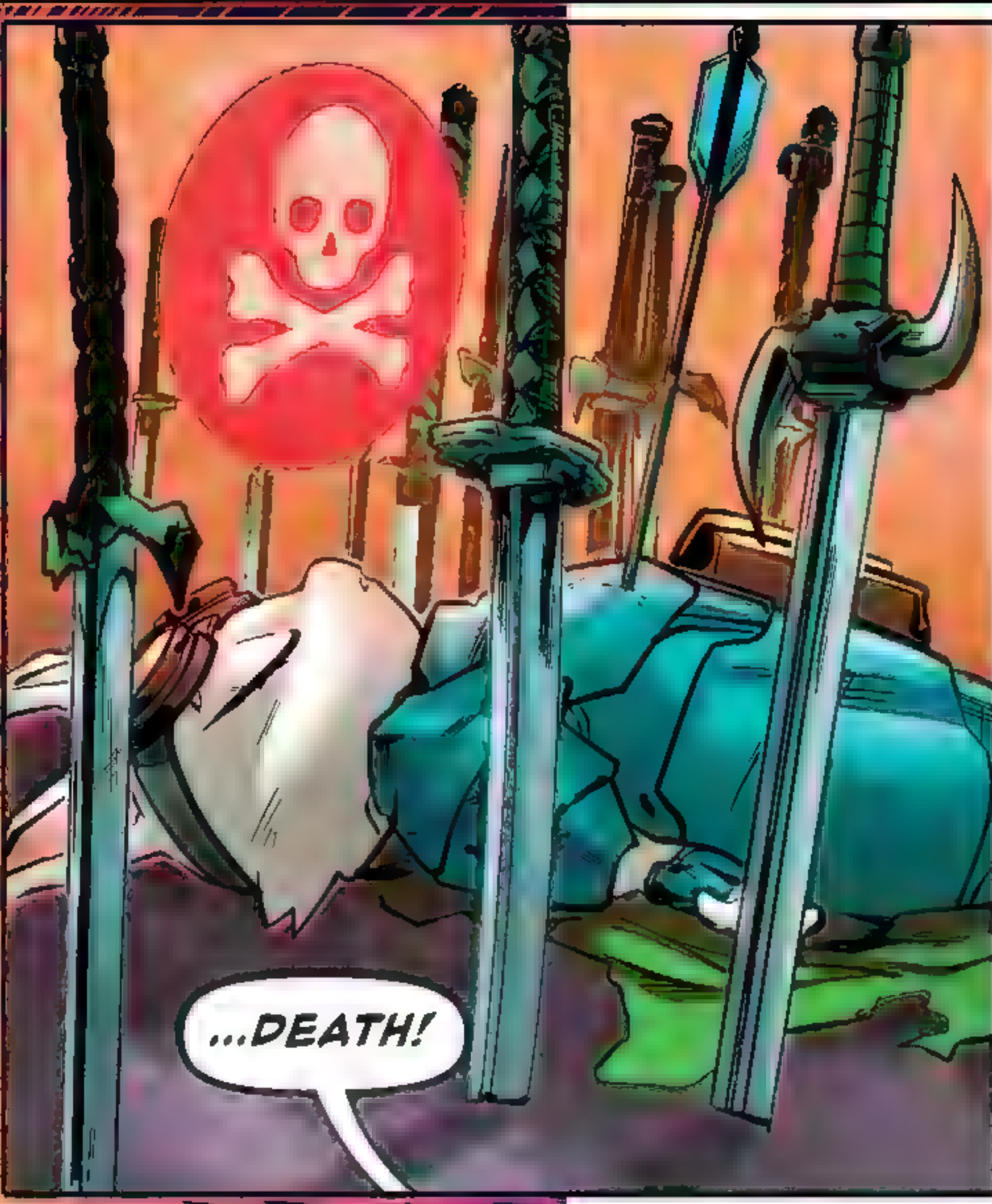
EMBRACE...



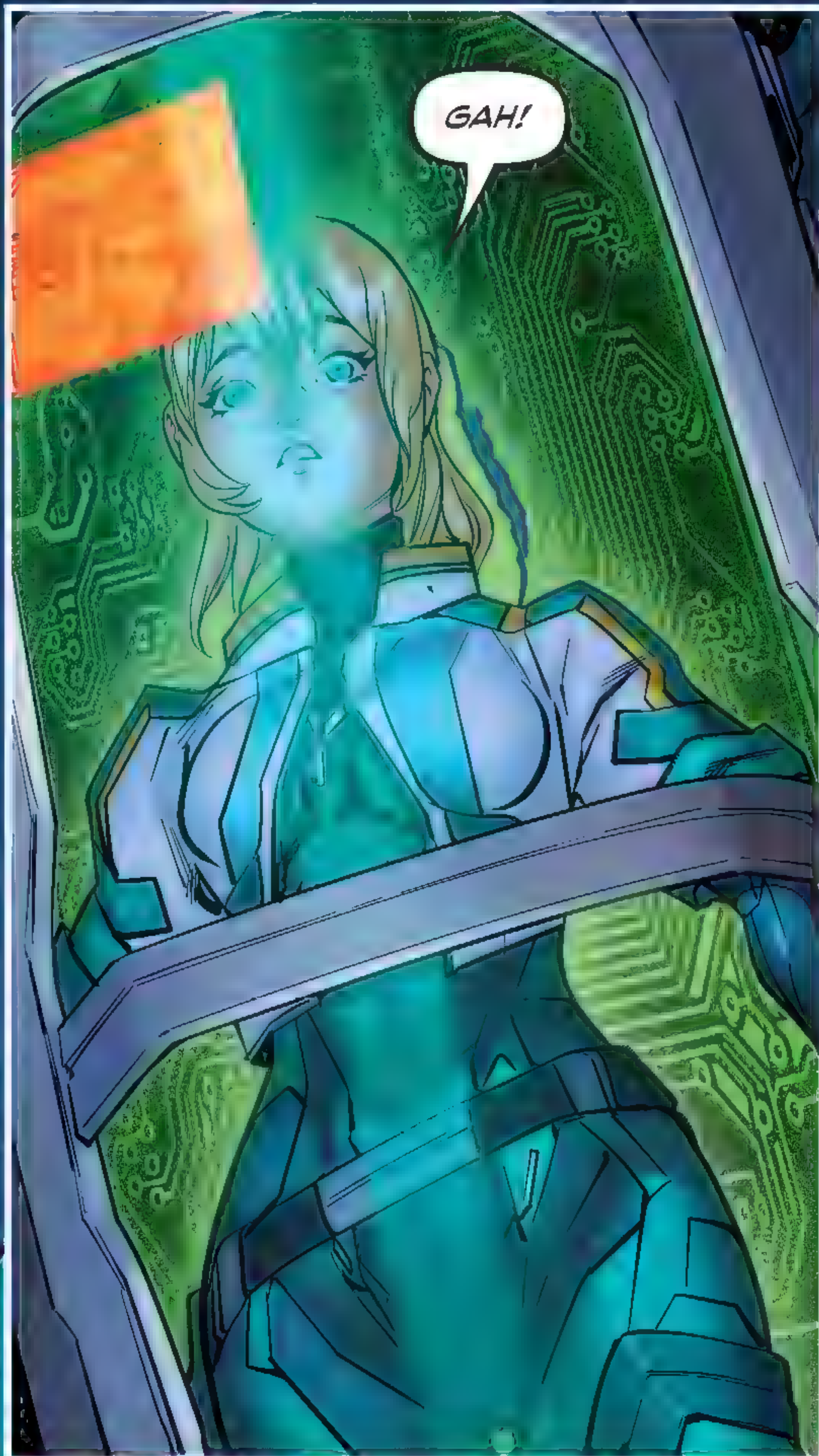
...YOUR...

TIME REVERSAL WITH A REDIRECT?!

THERE'S NO SPELL... IT CANNAE BE POSSIBLE!



...DEATH!



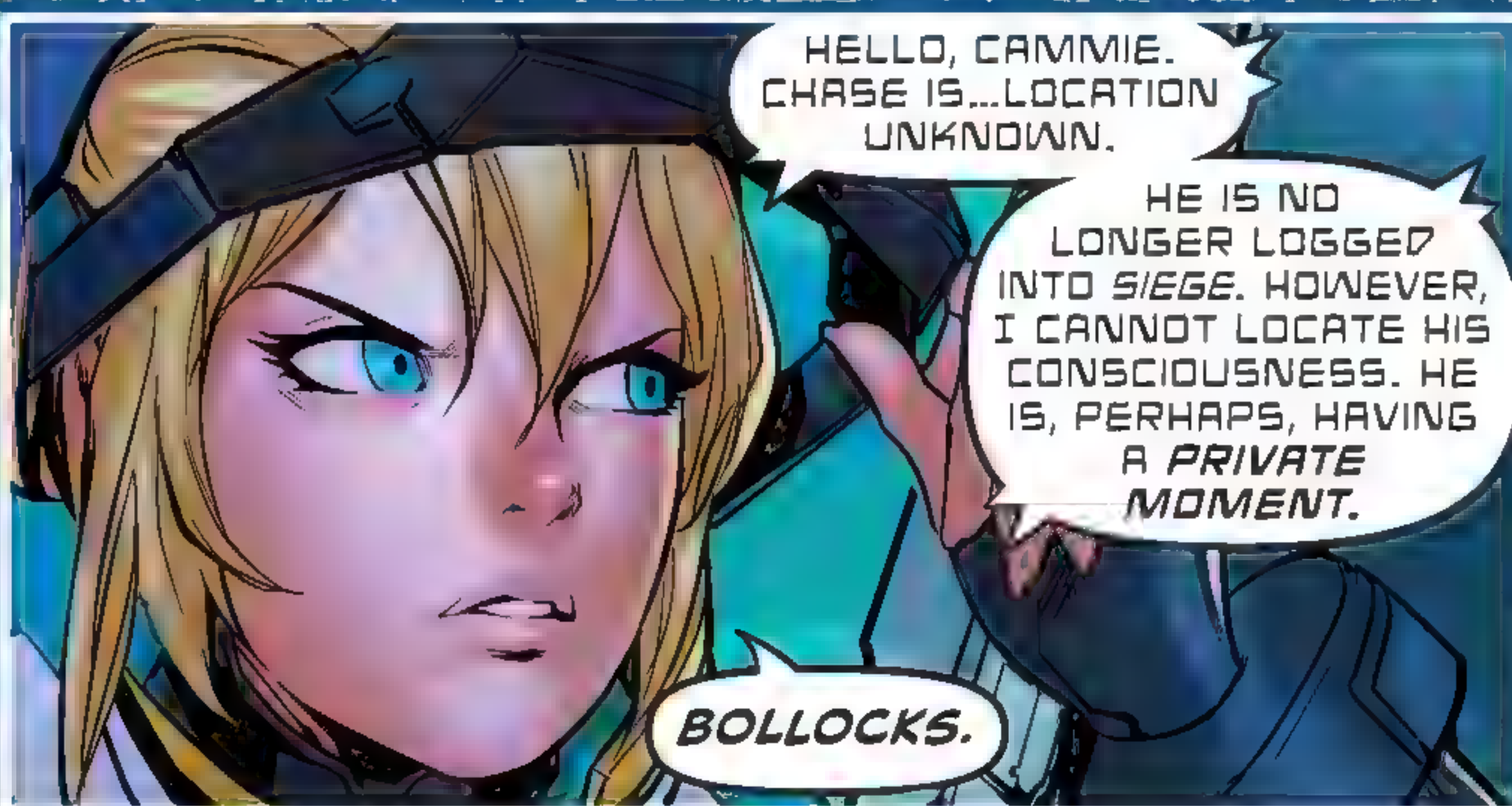
GAH!



ROTTEN
TOSSER
RED-EYED
SKAG--

--CHASE?!
CHASE LAD,
RESPOND!

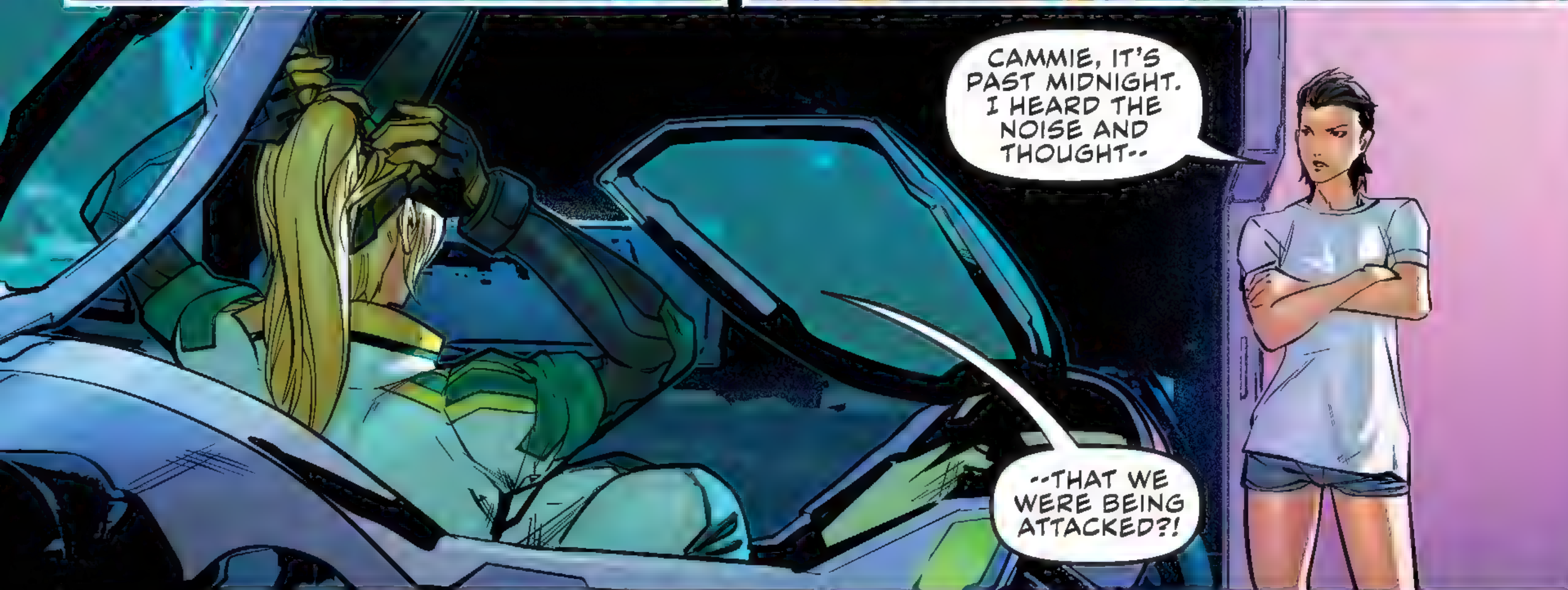
CALIBAN,
WHERE'S
CHASE?



HELLO, CAMMIE.
CHASE IS...LOCATION
UNKNOWN.

HE IS NO
LONGER LOGGED
INTO SIEGE. HOWEVER,
I CANNOT LOCATE HIS
CONSCIOUSNESS. HE
IS, PERHAPS, HAVING
A PRIVATE
MOMENT.

BOLLOCKS.



CAMMIE, IT'S
PAST MIDNIGHT.
I HEARD THE
NOISE AND
THOUGHT--

--THAT WE
WERE BEING
ATTACKED?!



WE
WERE,
YAZ.



SYCORAX
WAS WAITING
FOR US.

ONE
EXPLANATION
LATER...

WYVERN,
ACTUALLY, VALENTINA.
WINGS AND TWO
LEGS. DRAGON'S
GOT FOUR.

DRAGONS
HAVE ZERO
WINGS.

KAZU,
YOU'RE
KILLING
ME.

A WITCH.
A WARRIOR.
AND A...
DRAGON?

SYCORAX.
AND IT--THEY--
WERE WAITING
FOR YOU?

THEY LURED
US IN. A SECRET
QUEST, A HIDDEN
JOURNEY...

...IT WAS LIKE
MY PARTICULAR
BRAND OF CATNIP,
BUT ALSO LIKE A
TOTAL SHERLOCK
UNSOLVABLE
MYSTERY?

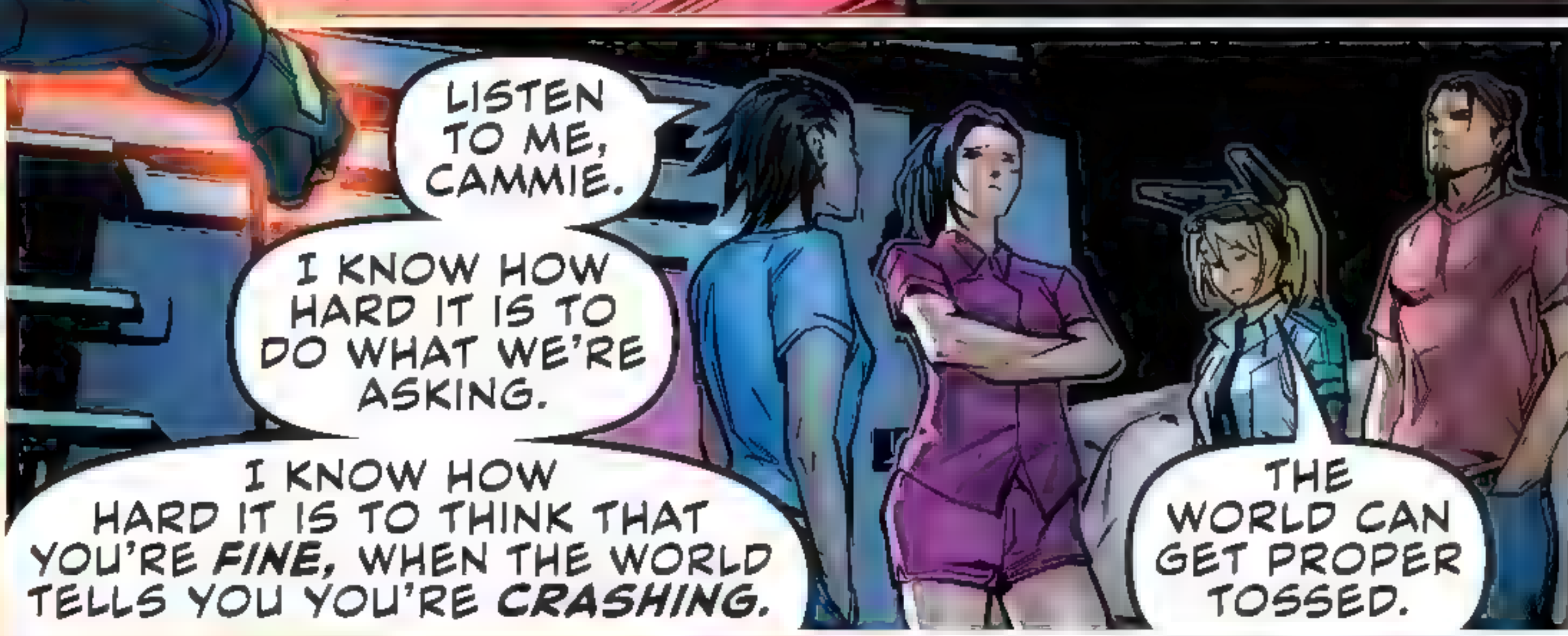
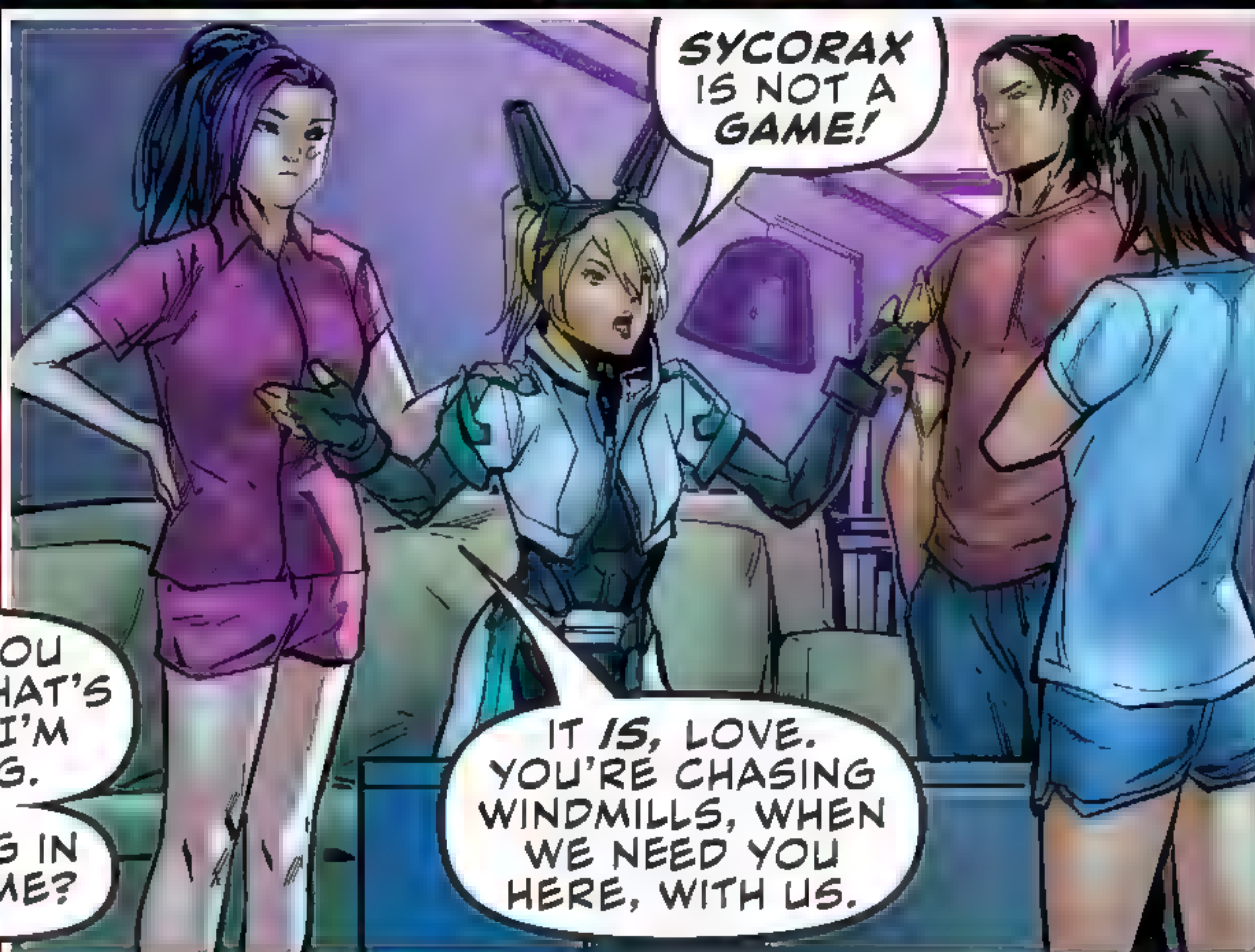
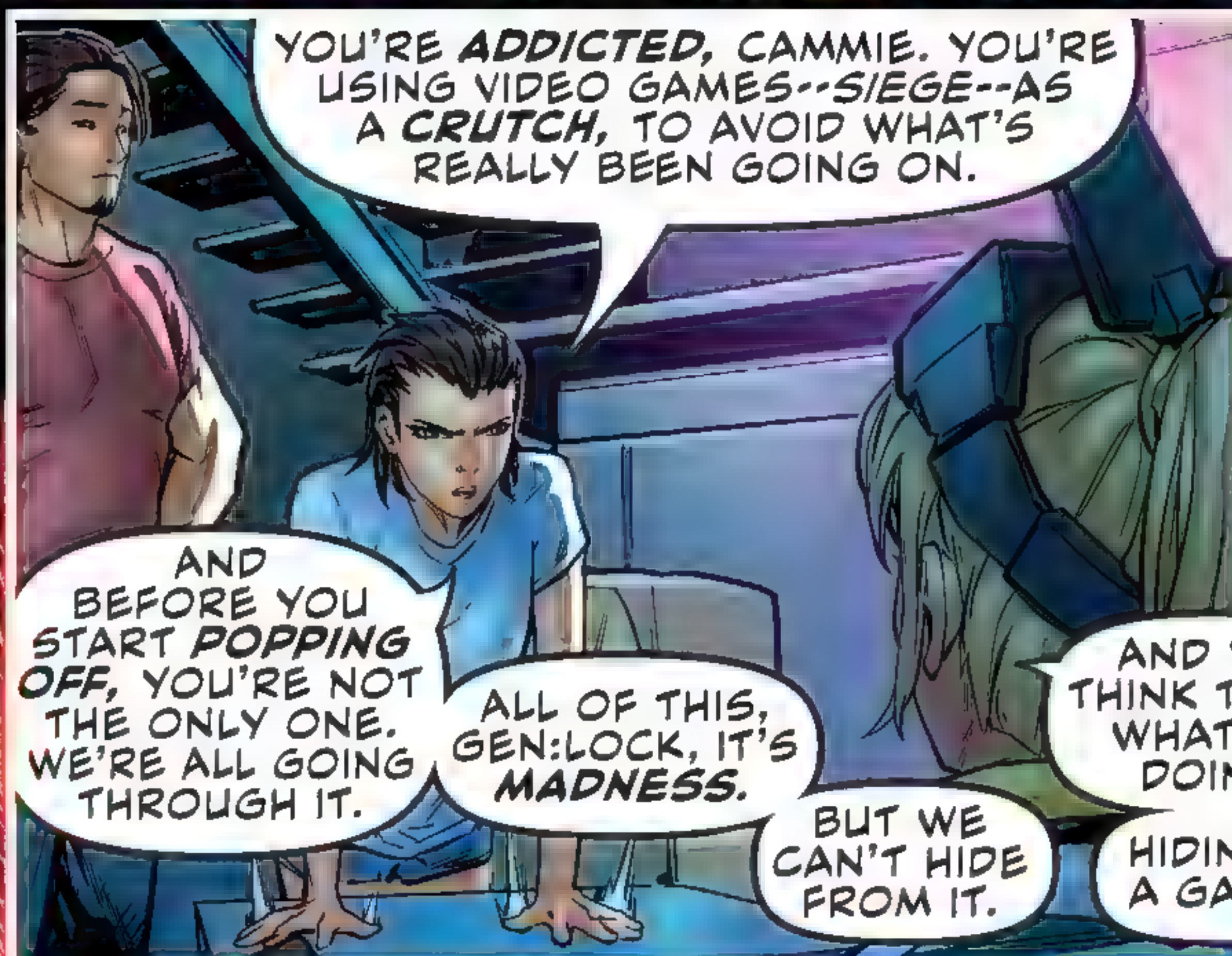
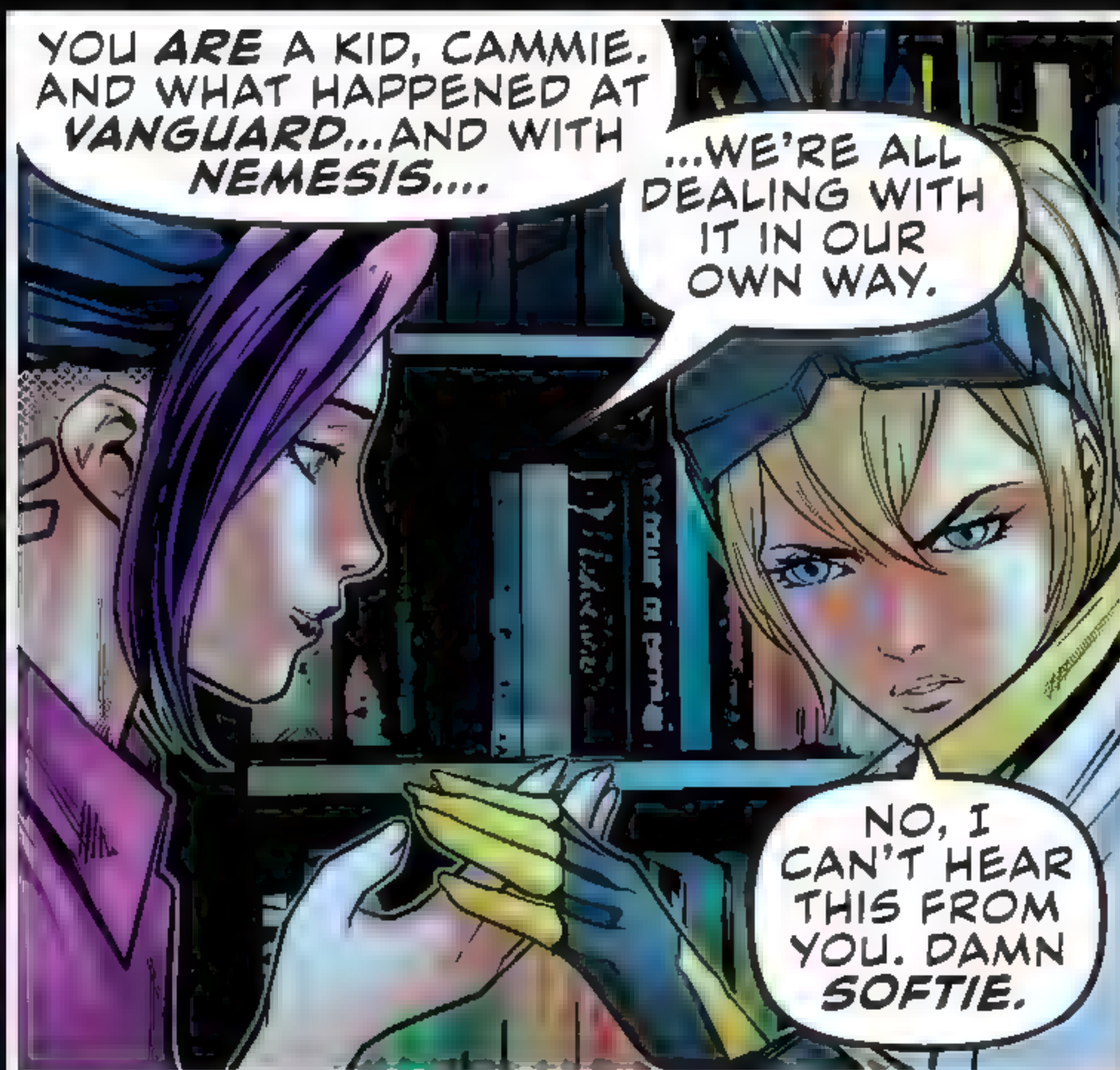
DEAR, A
SHERLOCK
MYSTERY IS
SOLVABLE, BY
DEFINITION.

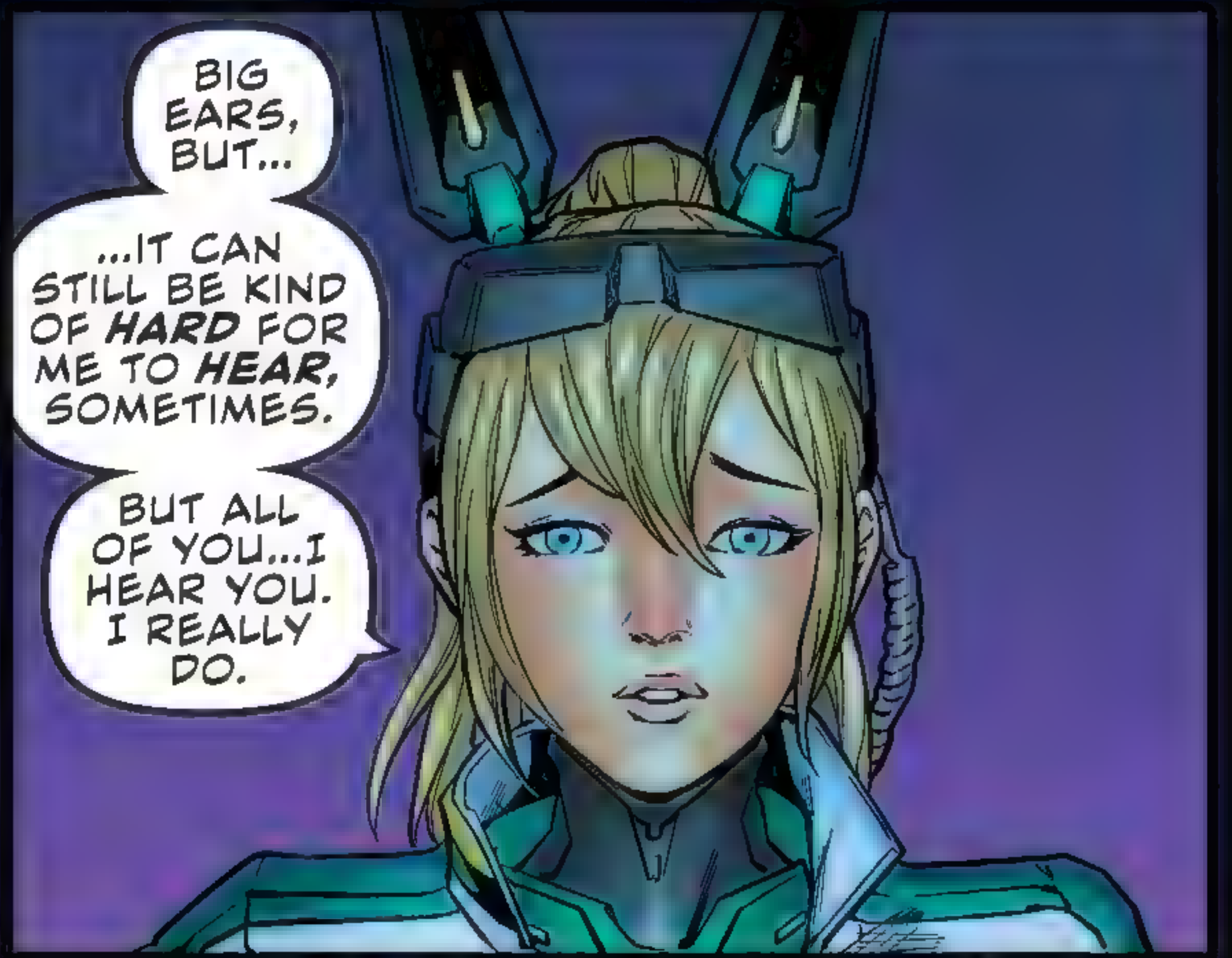
OR, WAS IT A TYPICAL HIGH-LEVEL
QUEST, USING VARIATION ON AN
AESTHETIC TO RE-ENGAGE
BORED PLAYERS TO CONTINUE
WASTING THEIR TIME.

YES, KAZU,
A.K.A. "FUN,"
IT'S WORTH
TRYING.

BUT ALSO, NO. IT
WAS MORE THAN THAT.
YOU DON'T IMPLEMENT
A QUEST FOR **THREE**
PEOPLE. NO MATTER
HOW CUTE THEY
ARE.

WHAT
THE HELL
IS THAT
LOOK?





BIG EARS, BUT...

...IT CAN STILL BE KIND OF **HARD** FOR ME TO **HEAR**, SOMETIMES.

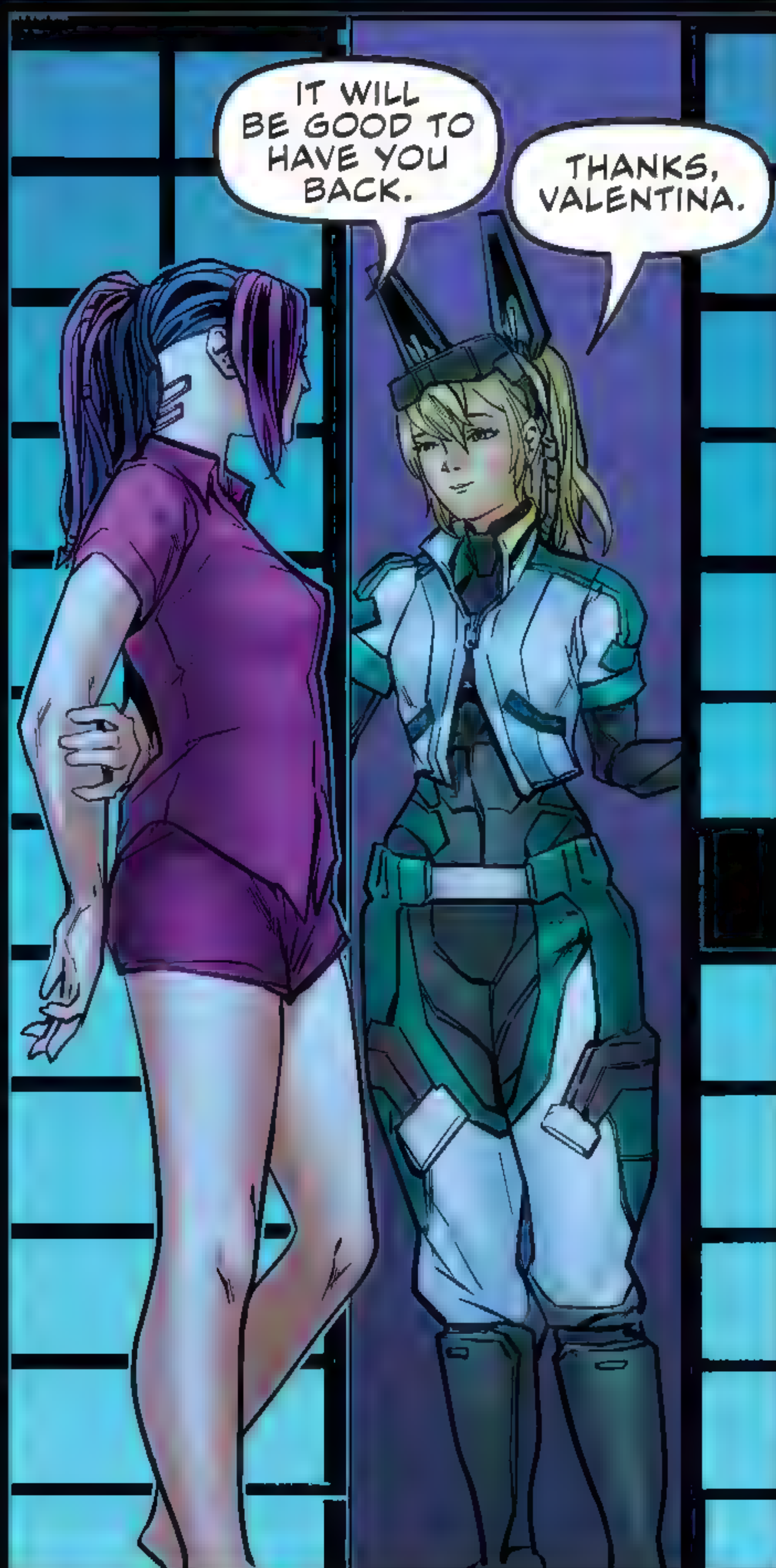
BUT ALL OF YOU...I HEAR YOU. I REALLY DO.



FINE. NO **BIG DEAL**, I WAS OVER IT ANYWAY.

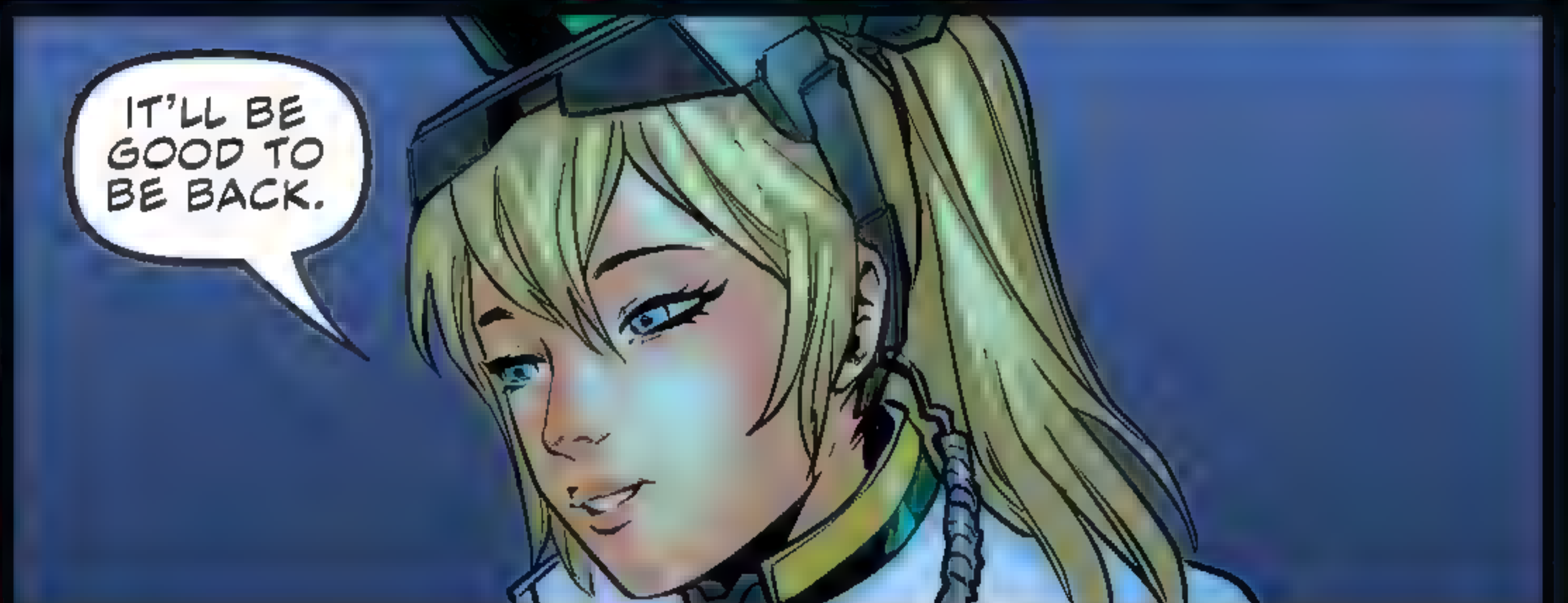


I, CAMMIE MACCLOUD, PROMISE TO **PLAY SIEGE** NO MORE.



IT WILL BE GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK.

THANKS, VALENTINA.



IT'LL BE GOOD TO BE BACK.



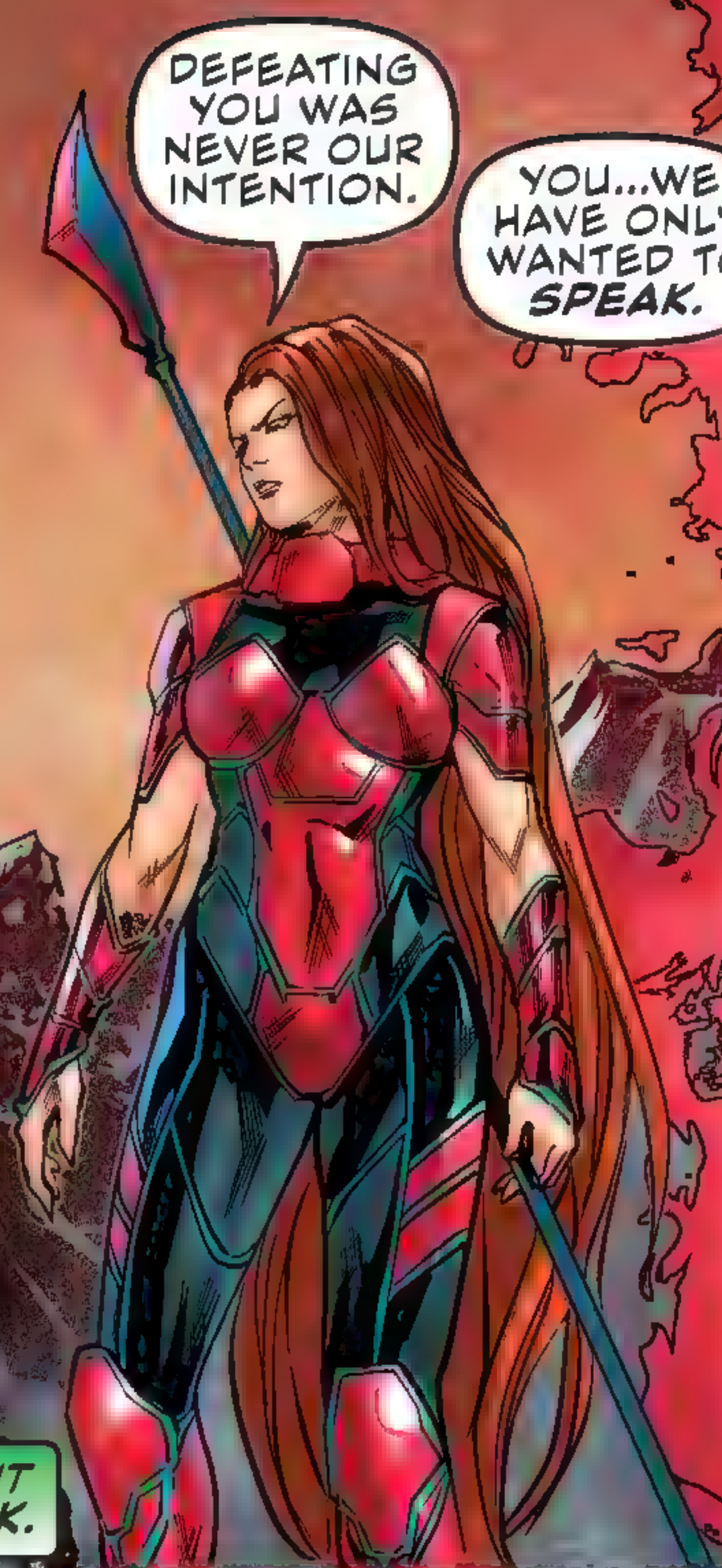
IT'S A FUNNY THING, BEING LEFT BEHIND.



COME ON THEN!

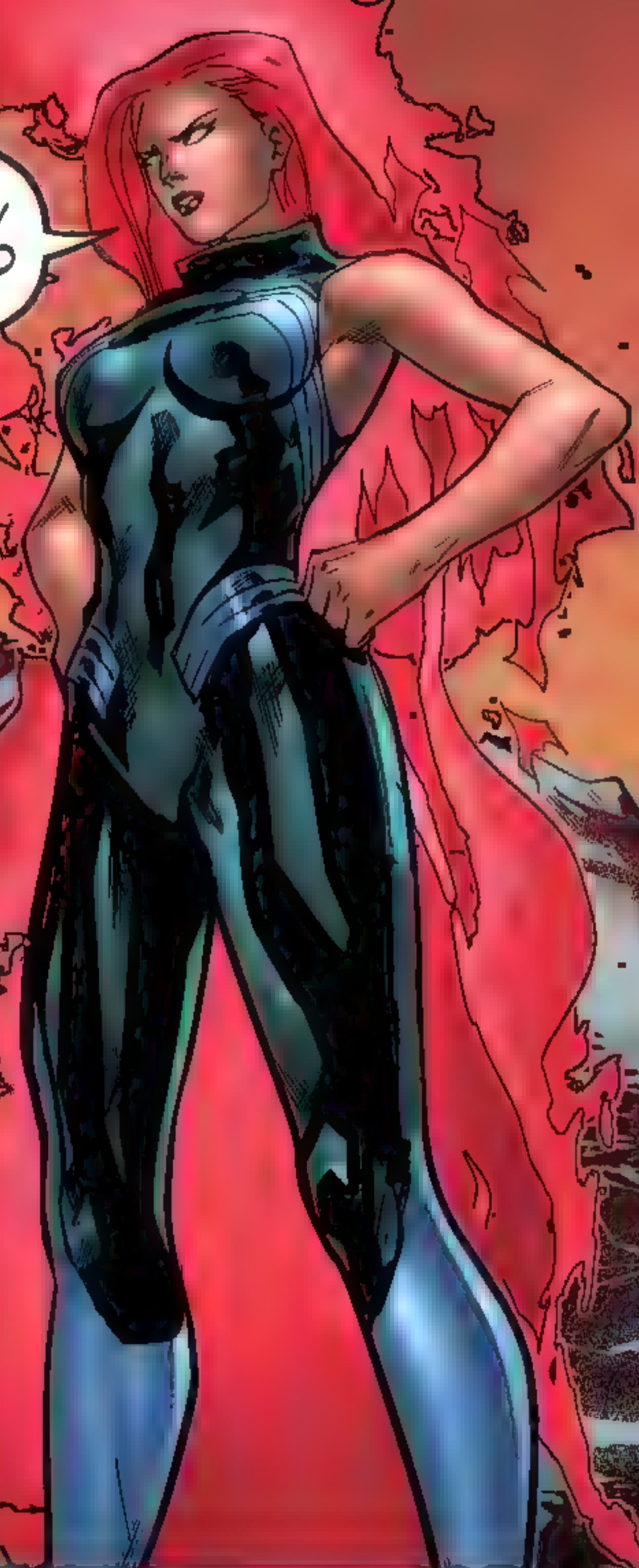
YOU KO'D CAMMIE AND CALIBAN, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!

YOU CAN GET LEFT BECAUSE YOU'RE UNWANTED.

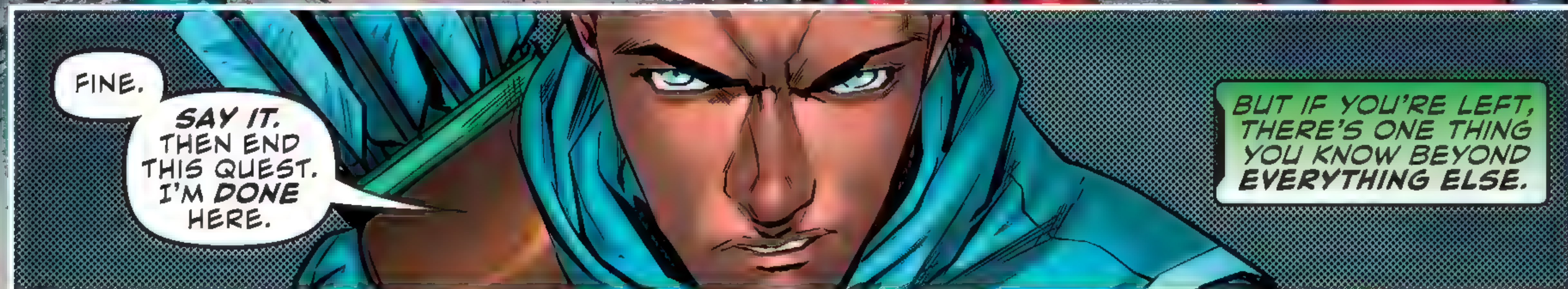


DEFEATING YOU WAS NEVER OUR INTENTION.

YOU...WE HAVE ONLY WANTED TO SPEAK.



YOU CAN GET LEFT OUT BECAUSE OF BAD LUCK.



FINE.

SAY IT. THEN END THIS QUEST. I'M DONE HERE.

BUT IF YOU'RE LEFT, THERE'S ONE THING YOU KNOW BEYOND EVERYTHING ELSE.



SO QUICKLY? WHEN ALL WE'VE EVER WANTED IS TO MEET YOU...



...OUR BROTHER.

WELCOME HOME.

YOU'RE ALL YOU'VE GOT.





WHERE I GREW UP,
THE SUN WAS NEVER
ALLOWED TO RISE.

THE UNION
MADE SURE
OF THAT.

A THOUSAND
SCIENTISTS
KIDNAPPED.
AN ENTIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
STRIP-MINED
FOR WAR.

FAMILIES
SEPARATED
AND
IMPRISONED.
THE SUN WAS
THE ONLY
THING LEFT
TO GIVE US
HOPE.

SO THEY
FILLED THE
SKY WITH
SMOKE. DAY
AND NIGHT.

STAY
OUT.

AND THOUGHT IT
WOULD STOP US
FROM HOPING.

HOPELESS

COLLIN KELLY
JACKSON LANZING
HENRY PRASETYA
PROTOBUNKER
TOM NAPOLITANO
DAN MORA
ANDREW MARINO

...WHEN
THERE ARE
NO LOCKS
ON THE
DOORS.

THEY NEVER
UNDERSTOOD.

WHERE THERE IS
FIRE IN THE SOUL
FOR CHANGE...

CRUNCH

==SIGH==

THE
IDIOTS.

THE SILENT
TREATMENT?
TRULY? HERE'S
A TIP: LOCKING
YOURSELF IN YOUR
ROOM DOESN'T
WORK SO
WELL...

HOPE
BURNS ON.

I TOLD
YOU TO STAY
OUT. ARE YOU
DEAF?

NO. BUT
I HAD A GOOD
FRIEND WHO WAS.
KILLED MANY UNION
SOLDIERS. MADE
BEAUTIFUL ART.
AND LIKE
HER...

...I AM QUITE
PERSISTENT.

TALK
TO ME.

IT'S
OKAY.

MY GRANDFATHER
FOUGHT THE UNION
WHEN THEY FIRST ROSE
TO POWER. PUSHED
THEIR KIND OUT OF
JAPAN. HE DIED ON THE
BATTLEFIELD, BUT HE
KEPT THIS PLACE
FREE.

WHEN I
WAS A LITTLE
KID, JUST A DUMB
BOY WHO DIDN'T
KNOW ANYTHING,
I'D WAKE TO THIS
VIEW EVERY
DAY.

AS THE SUN PAINTED THE CITY, I'D...
THINK OF HIM. SOMETIMES...TALK TO
HIM. I OFTEN PROMISED NOT TO
DISHONOR HIS MEMORY.

BUT I DIDN'T
LIVE UP TO IT. I GET...
ANGRY. DEFENSIVE.
I REBEL. IT'S IN
MY NATURE.

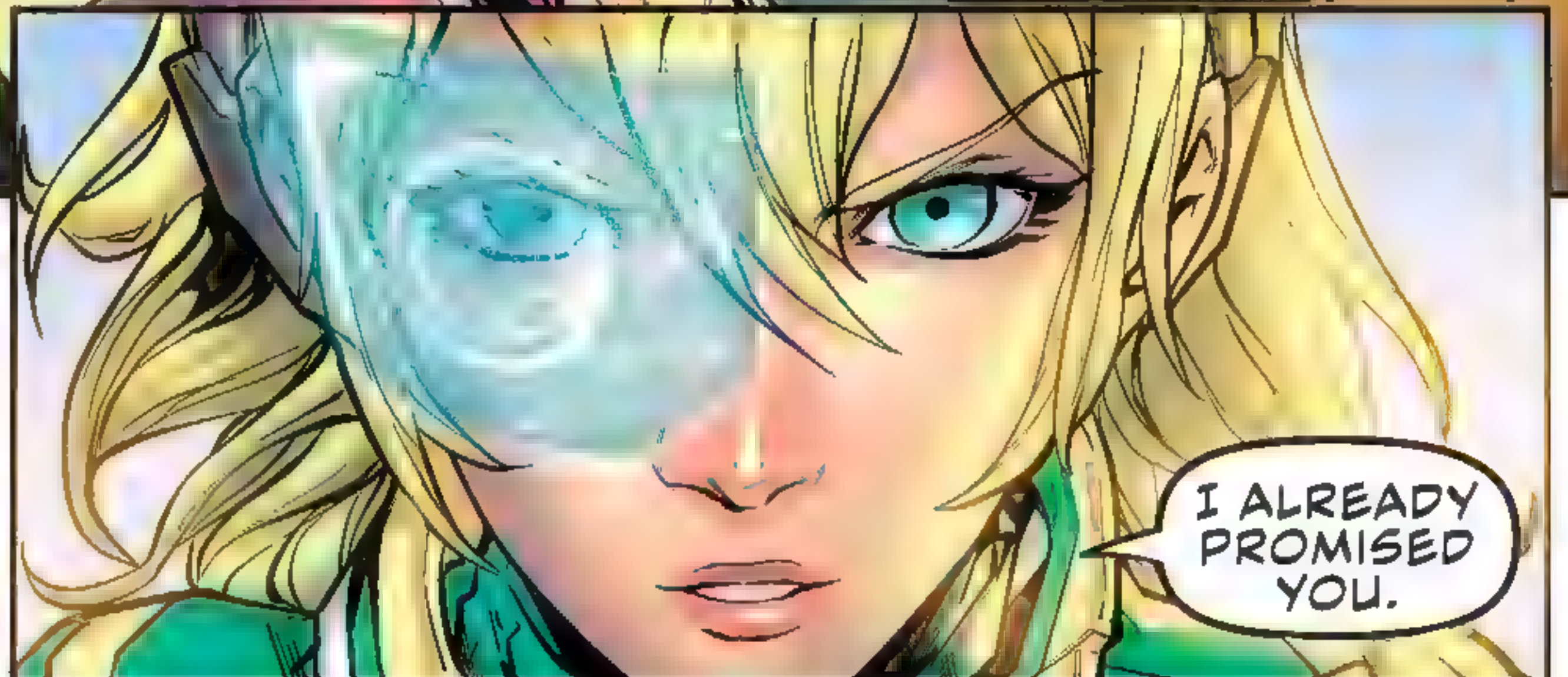
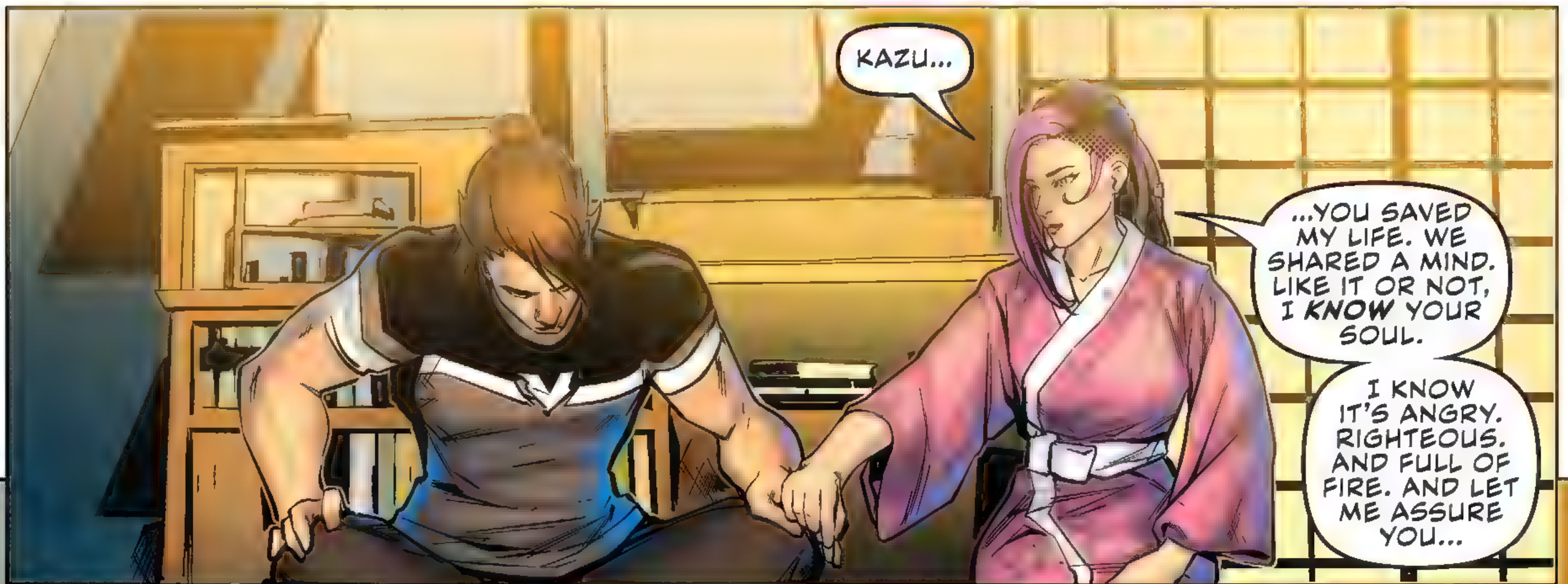
SO IT ONLY
TOOK ME TWO YEARS
IN A UNIFORM TO BREAK
THAT PROMISE. TO TURN
ON MY COMMANDERS
BECAUSE I THOUGHT
I KNEW BETTER.

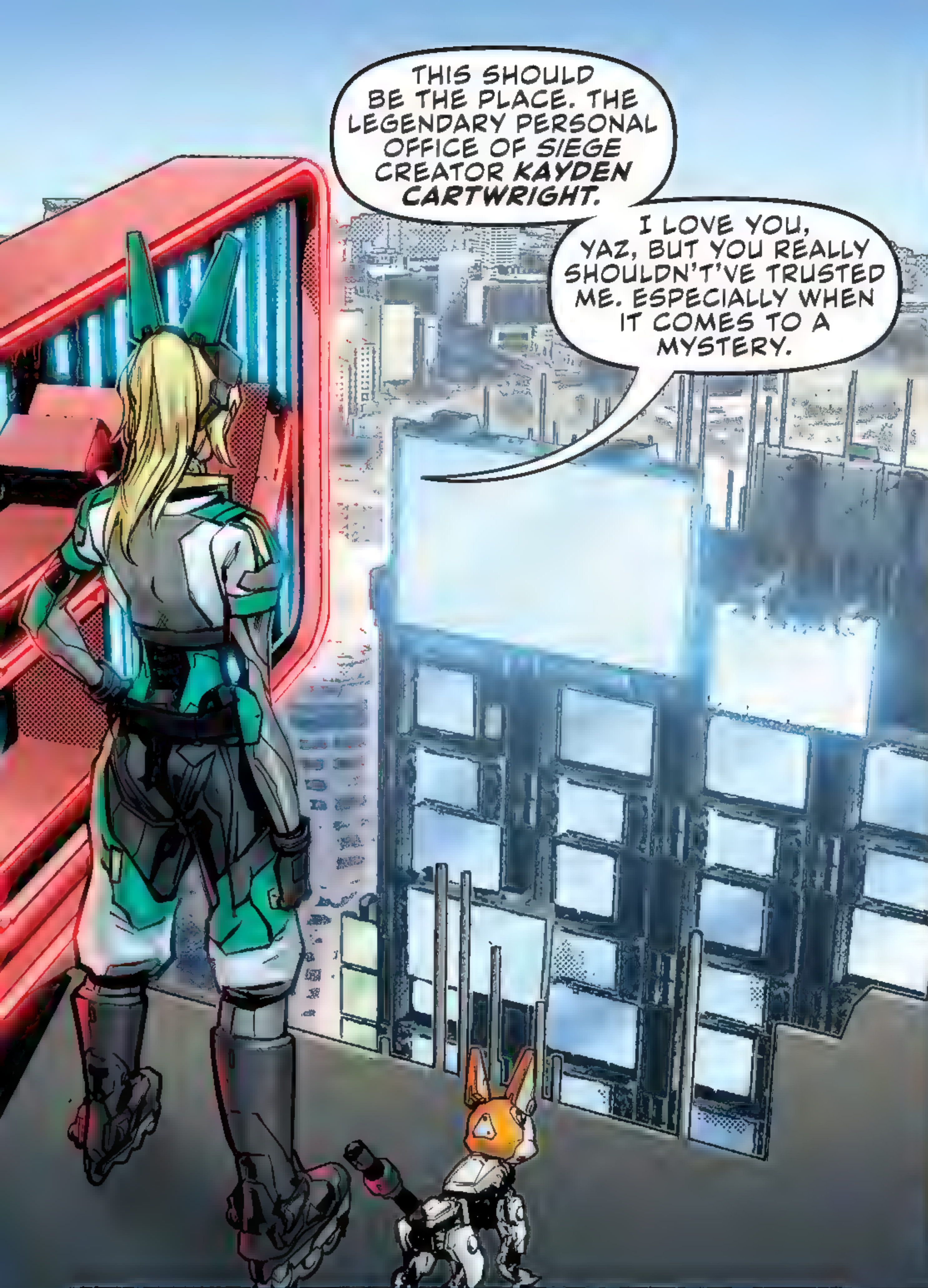
I KNOW...IT
SEEMS LIKE I
AM...**ANGRY** AT
MY PARENTS.

BUT
IT IS **NOT**
ANGER.

IT IS JUST
THAT I KNOW
I AM...

...**UNWORTHY**.





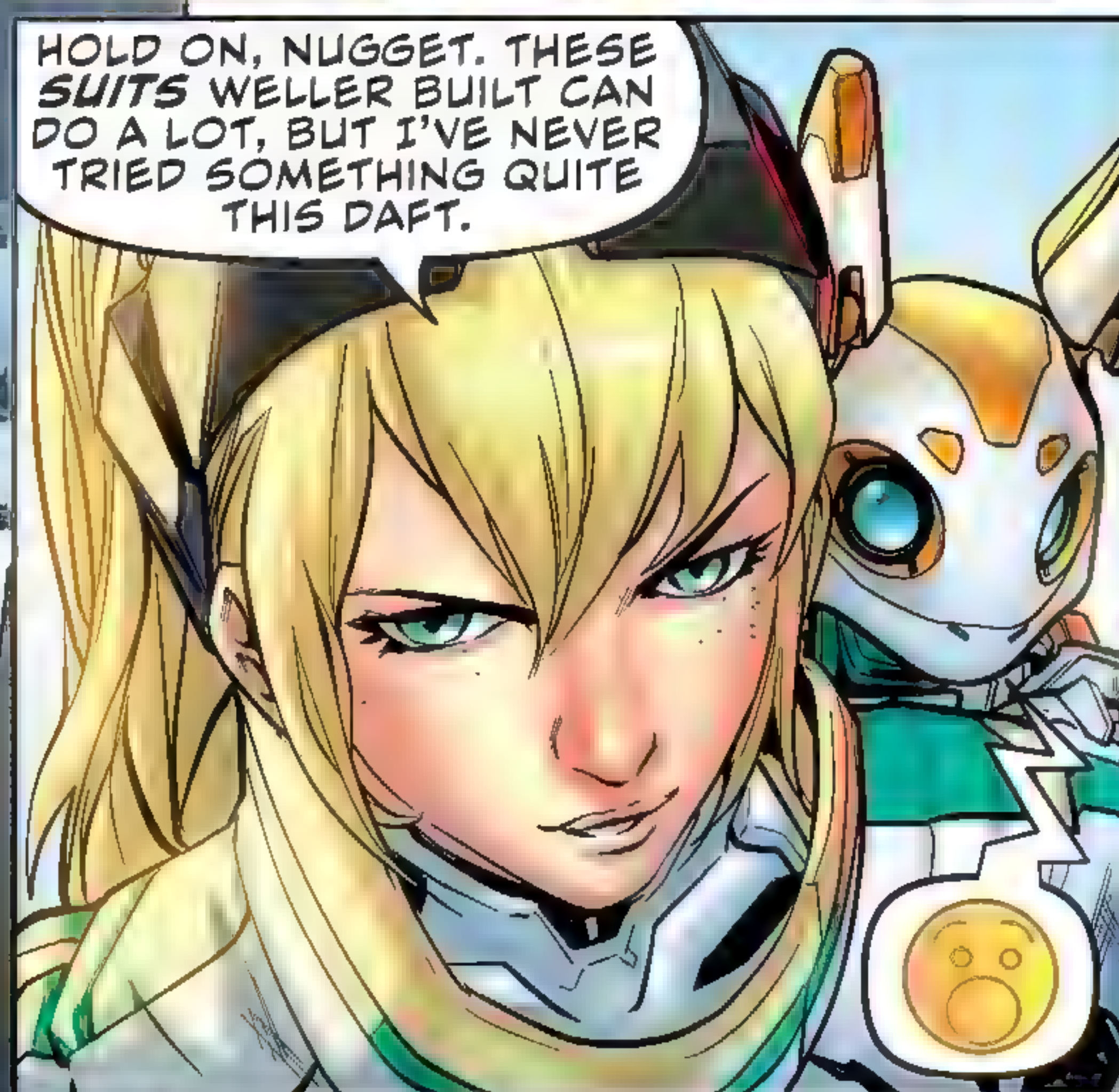
THIS SHOULD BE THE PLACE. THE LEGENDARY PERSONAL OFFICE OF SIEGE CREATOR KAYDEN CARTWRIGHT.

I LOVE YOU, YAZ, BUT YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T'VE TRUSTED ME. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO A MYSTERY.



STAY STRONG, CHASE. WHEREVER THOSE SYCORAX BASTARDS TOOK YOU...

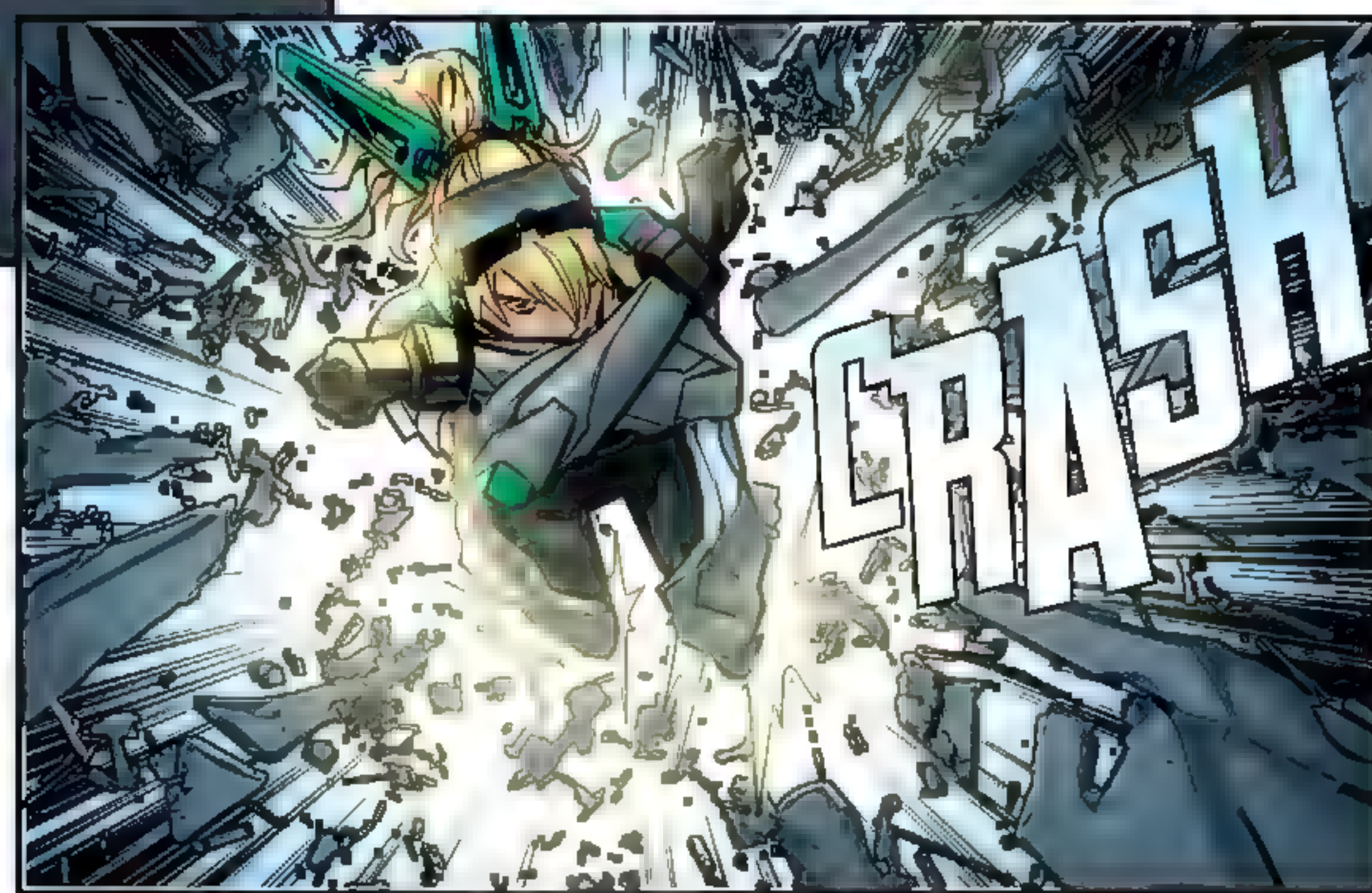
...YOU'LL NOT BE LEFT BEHIND.



HOLD ON, NUGGET. THESE **SUITS** WELLER BUILT CAN DO A LOT, BUT I'VE NEVER TRIED SOMETHING QUITE THIS DAFT.

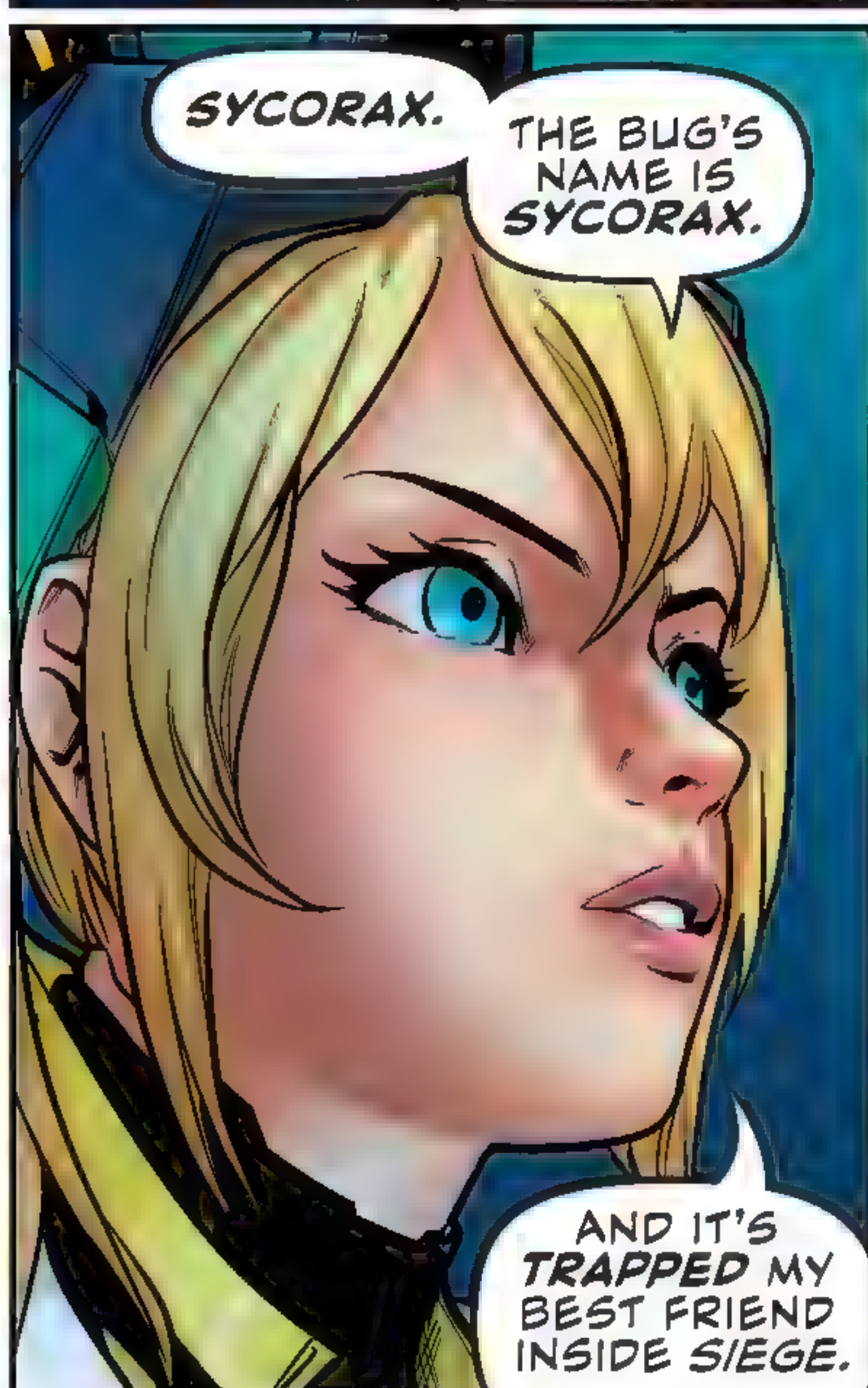
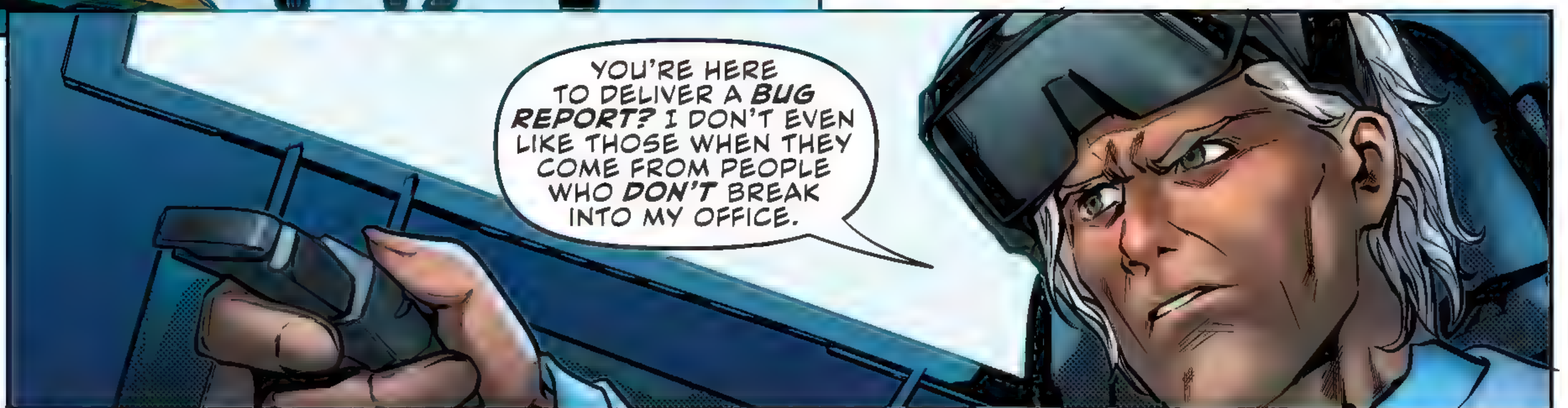
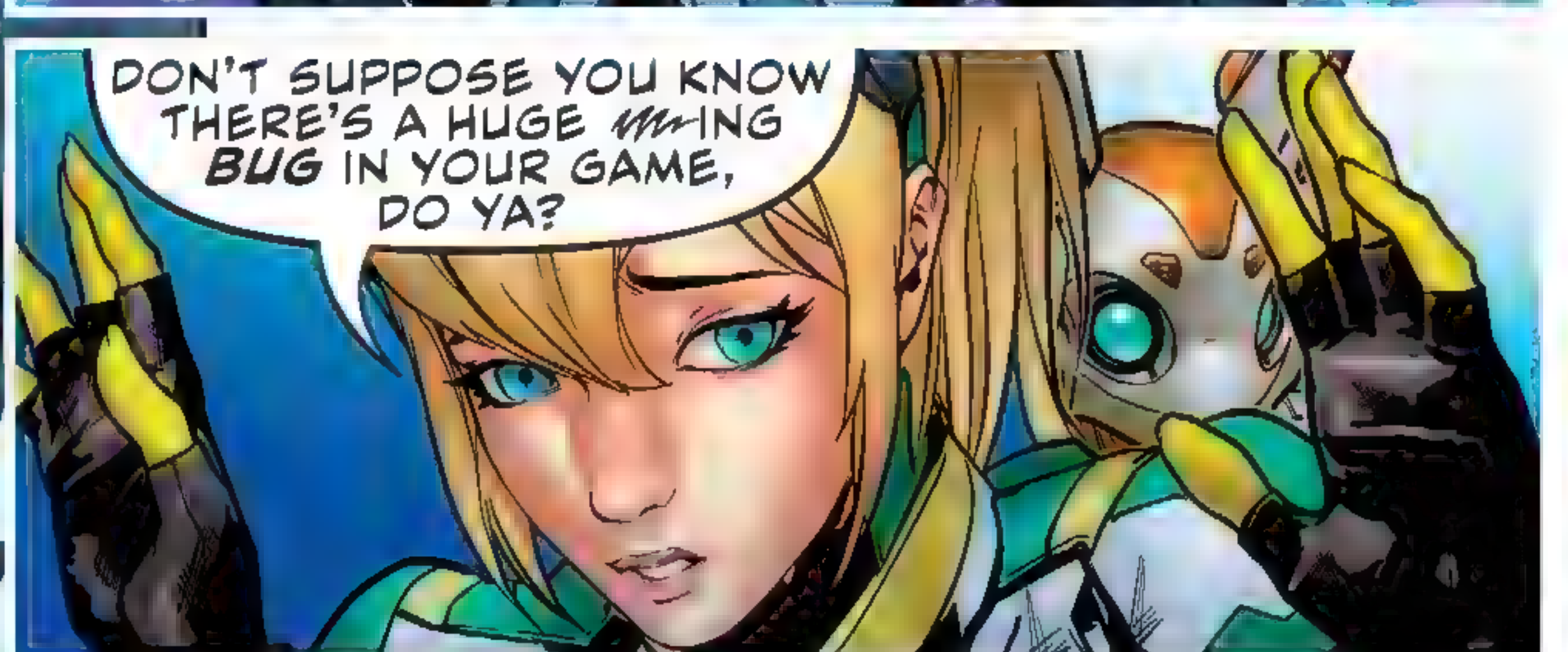
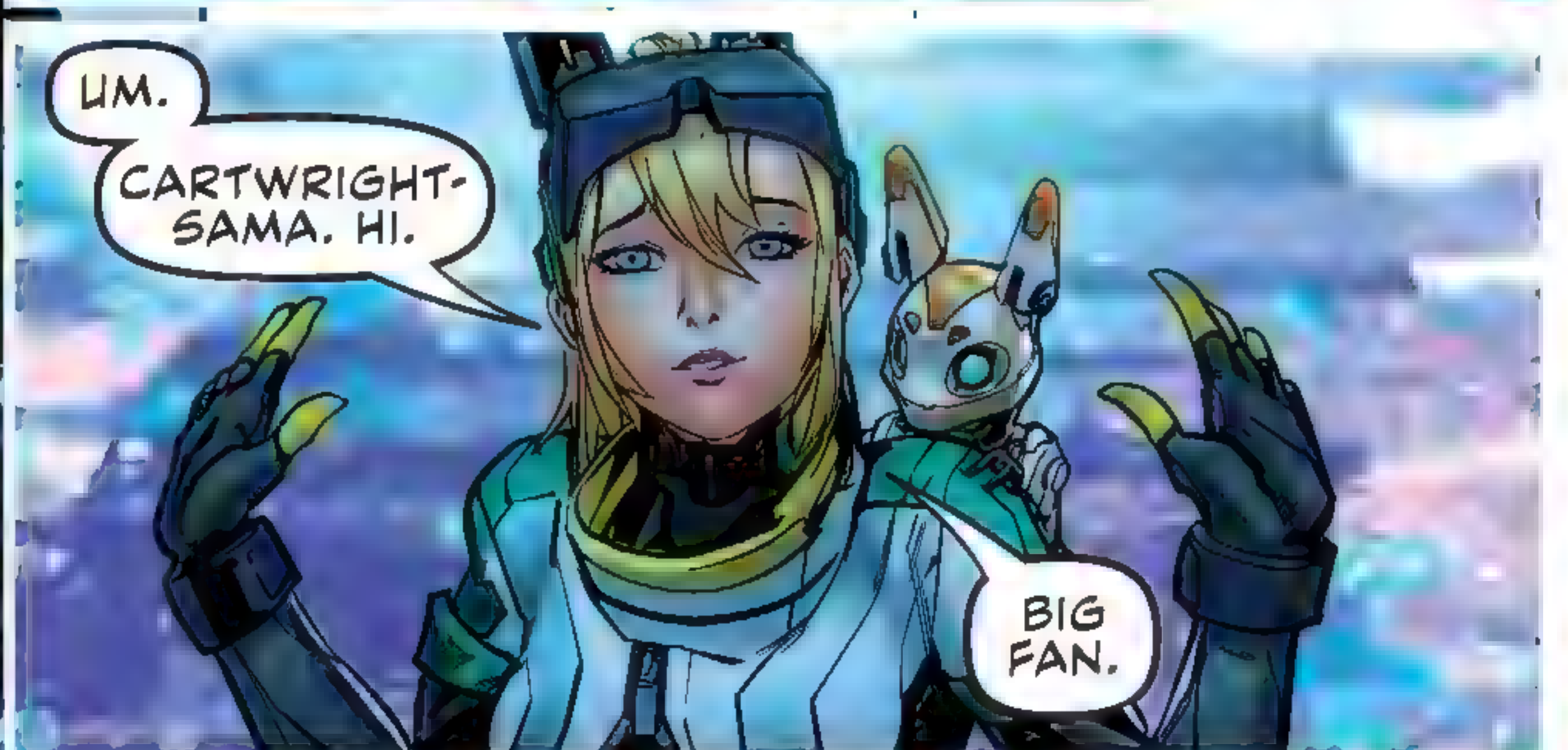


YEAH, HONESTLY, AGREED.



ALL RIGHT, NUGS, KAYDEN'S LONG RETIRED, SO WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLIP IN AND SLIP OUT. JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS!

DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT THE OLD DAYS, KID.



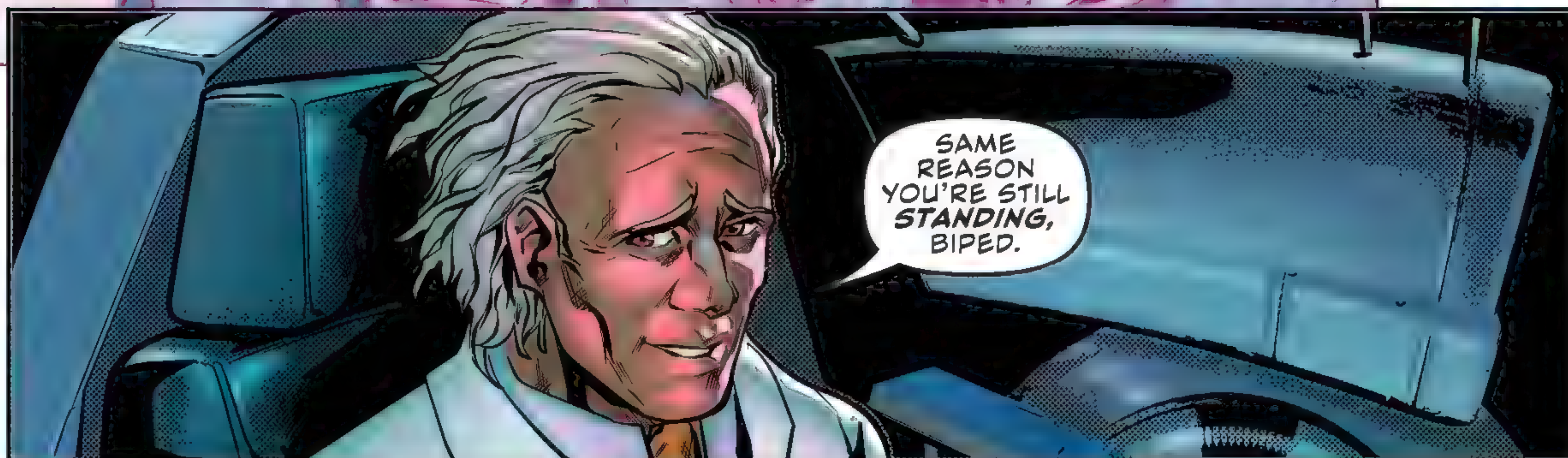
WELCOME TO THE SIEGE BASE CODE. I BUILT A BACKDOOR THROUGH THE ETHER PROPER. NO ONE CAN ACCESS IT BUT ME AND FOLKS I BRING IN WITH ME.

DON'T *TOUCH* ANYTHING OR I'LL THROW YOU OUT THAT WINDOW IRL.

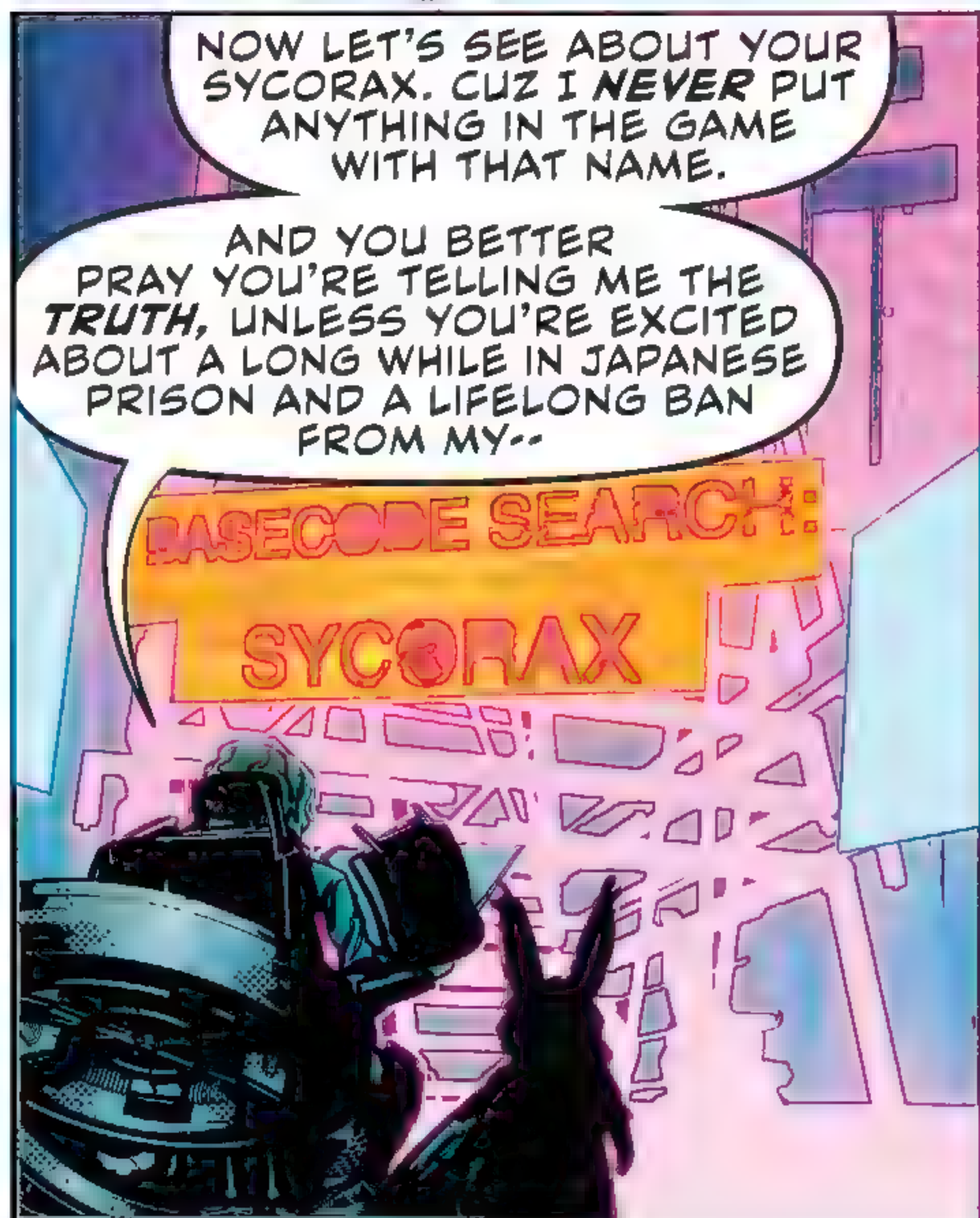
WAIT, IF WE'RE IN THE ETHER...



...WHY ARE YOU STILL IN YOUR CHAIR?



SAME REASON YOU'RE STILL *STANDING*, BIPED.



NOW LET'S SEE ABOUT YOUR SYCORAX. CUZ I *NEVER* PUT ANYTHING IN THE GAME WITH THAT NAME.

AND YOU BETTER PRAY YOU'RE TELLING ME THE *TRUTH*, UNLESS YOU'RE EXCITED ABOUT A LONG WHILE IN JAPANESE PRISON AND A LIFELONG BAN FROM MY--

BASECODE SEARCH:
SYCORAX



WAIT. WHAT THE HELL?

WHAT IS IT?

MORE LIKE WHAT IT *ISN'T*. THERE'S A WHOLE SECTION OF THE MAINFRAME I CAN'T ACCESS. OFF THE MAP, BUT STILL IN THE GAME. AND IT'S JUST--



THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE...

IS THAT CODE REWRITING ITSELF?

IT'S LOCKING ME OUT AT EVERY ACCESS POINT. ALMOST LIKE IT'S...

...ALIVE.

I HAVE TO SAY: I KNOW IT'S A DISGUISE, BUT I'M NOT HATING THIS LOOK.

STAY ALERT. NEARLY EVERYONE IN THIS DISTRICT WORKS INSIDE THE SHOGUNATE FACILITY AS EITHER A PILOT OR AN ENGINEER.

THEY WILL KNOW ABOUT MIGAS AND CALIBAN, MAYBE EVEN THE LOCATION OF OUR HOLONS, AS LONG AS WE ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.

THE UNION TOOK MY COUNTRY WHEN I WAS JUST A CHILD. THEY SNUFFED THE LIFE FROM OUR DAYS AND NIGHTS UNDER A BOOT OF WAR. IT TOOK LESS THAN A MONTH.

BUT THIS ISLAND HAS BEEN UNDER SIEGE FOR THREE TIMES THAT, AND STILL THEIR LIGHT SHINES TO THE SKY. IT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A PERSON SMILE.

EVEN ME.

ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE SO MANY RIKU SONGS ON THE KARAOKE LIST. WHO SAYS PLAYING DISTRACTION CAN'T BE FUN?

WHAT'S THE WORD AT THE BAR?

GENERAL ANNO HAS ORDERED THE HOLONS AND THE RENEGADE DISASSEMBLED AND REPURPOSED IN THE SALVAGE HANGAR, BUT THE ENGINEERS CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF WELLER'S WORK.

IT'S ALL STILL INTACT.

WHICH MEANS MIGAS ISN'T COOPERATING. GOOD MAN.

ANY WORD ON CALIBAN?

THEY'RE KEEPING HIM WITH THE SHOGUNATE ITSELF. SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR PILOTING SYSTEM STILL NOT WORKING RIGHT.

THEY'RE HOPING THEY CAN HACK THE ANSWERS OUT OF HIM. WE BOTH KNOW THEY CAN'T.

I...

WHAT IS IT, KAZU? YOU'RE REALLY GONNA TURN DOWN A FIGHT?

IT'S JUST... I...

SO. WE KNOW WHERE OUR HOLONS ARE. WE KNOW OUR FRIENDS ARE STILL IN CAPTIVITY.

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE BUST 'EM OUT?

HEY, HOLD UP. I'D KNOW THAT ACCENT ANYWHERE...



UNION
SCUM.

WHAT'S AN
IRANIAN DOING IN
POLITY TERRITORY?
YOU DON'T BELONG
HERE, YOU
FASCIST.

I HAD
FRIENDS IN
MANHATTAN. WE
KNOW WHAT YOU
MONSTERS DID.
WHAT YOU
ARE.



I'M NOT THE MONSTER
HERE, SOLDIER. YOUR
BIGOTRY IS.

MY NAME IS YASAMIN.
I ESCAPED THE UNION AT
GREAT **PERSONAL** COST AND
I ASSURE YOU, I **HATE** THEM
MORE THAN YOU EVER COULD.
NOW CAN I BUY YOU THREE
A ROUND OF--

YAZ, YOU'RE
NOT STARTING
A PARTY
WITHOUT **ME**,
ARE YOU?



STEP OFF! YOU AND
YOUR FRIENDS NEED
TO GET THE HELL
OUT OF JAPAN--

**THAT'S
ENOUGH.**



THESE
TWO WOMEN
HAVE DONE MORE
TO FIGHT THE UNION
THAN YOU COULD
EVER KNOW.

THEY ARE
THE REASON
THE POLITY
HAS NOT YET
FALLEN.

AND IF YOU
ARE LUCKY ENOUGH
TO SURVIVE GOING
THROUGH **THEM**, I'LL
SURE AS HELL MAKE
SURE YOU DON'T GO
THROUGH **ME**.



WHAT ON
EARTH?



ATTENTION,
PLURALIST
CHILDREN OF THE
DISGUSTING
POLITY.

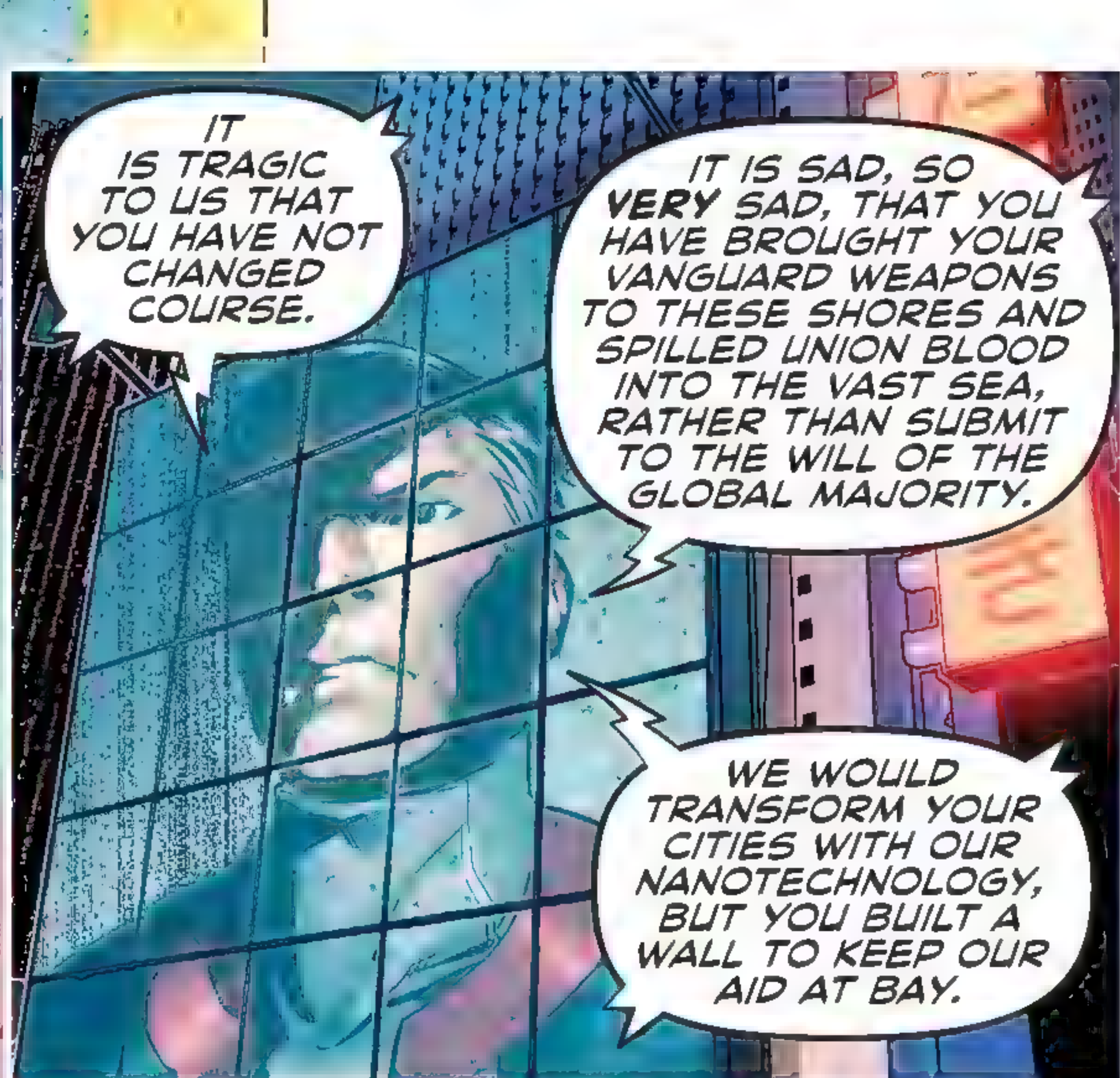
YOUR
END BEGINS
TODAY.



FOR FAR TOO LONG, THE GREAT UNION OF THE FOURTH TURNING REPUBLICS HAS WATCHED YOU REVEL IN CHILDISH INDIVIDUALISM.

WE HAVE WATCHED YOU CELEBRATE YOUR HEROES WHILE YOUR FORGOTTEN ARE TRODDEN UNDERFOOT.

WE HAVE WATCHED YOU PUT PEACE BEFORE UNITY.



IT IS TRAGIC TO US THAT YOU HAVE NOT CHANGED COURSE.

IT IS SAD, SO VERY SAD, THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT YOUR VANGUARD WEAPONS TO THESE SHORES AND SPILLED UNION BLOOD INTO THE VAST SEA, RATHER THAN SUBMIT TO THE WILL OF THE GLOBAL MAJORITY.

WE WOULD TRANSFORM YOUR CITIES WITH OUR NANOTECHNOLOGY, BUT YOU BUILT A WALL TO KEEP OUR AID AT BAY.



REJOICE, THEN. FOR SUCH SADNESS IS AT AN END.



WE THOUGHT TO STARVE YOU OUT.

BUT YOU HAVE ENDURED.



WE THOUGHT TO CRUSH YOUR HOPE.

BUT YOU HAVE ENDURED.



SO NOW WE UNLEASH OUR WEAPONS OF WAR. WE WILL BURN YOUR HOPE AWAY.

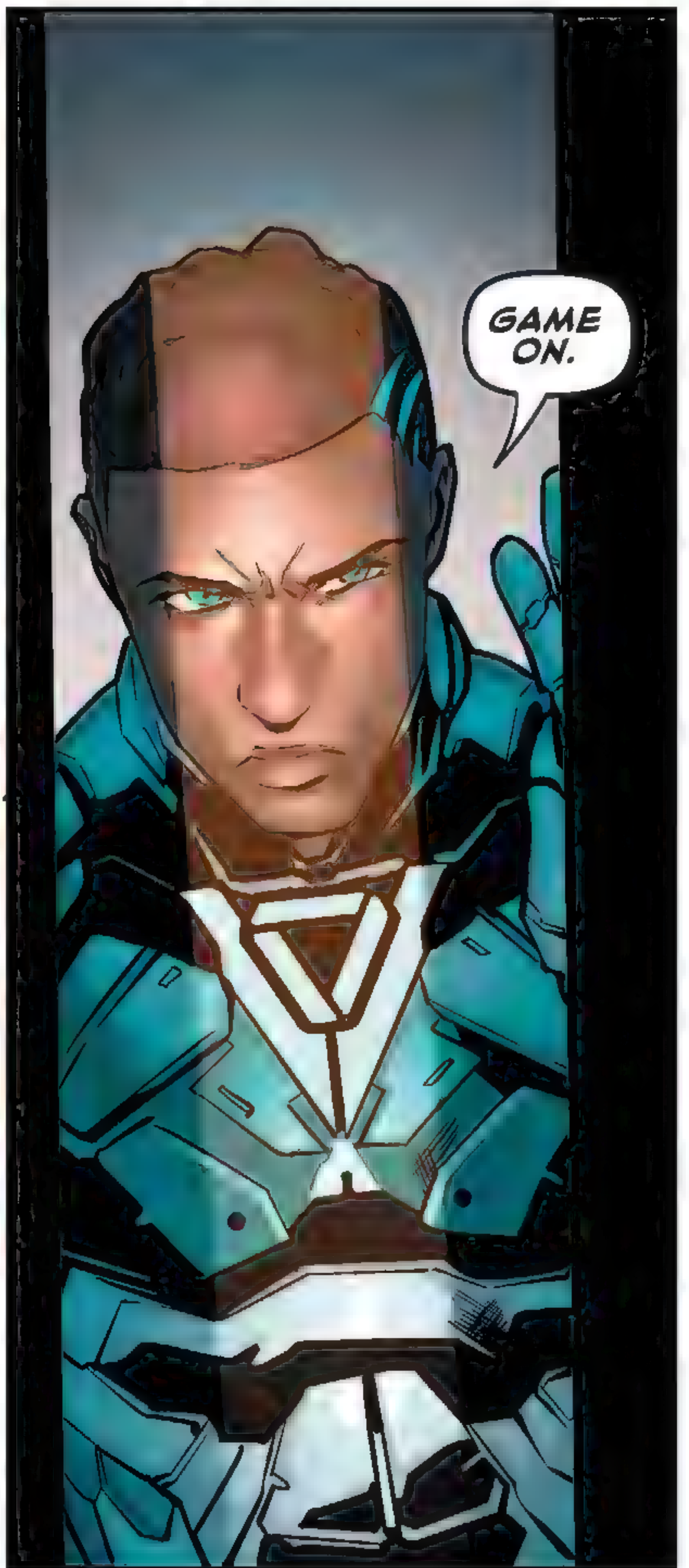
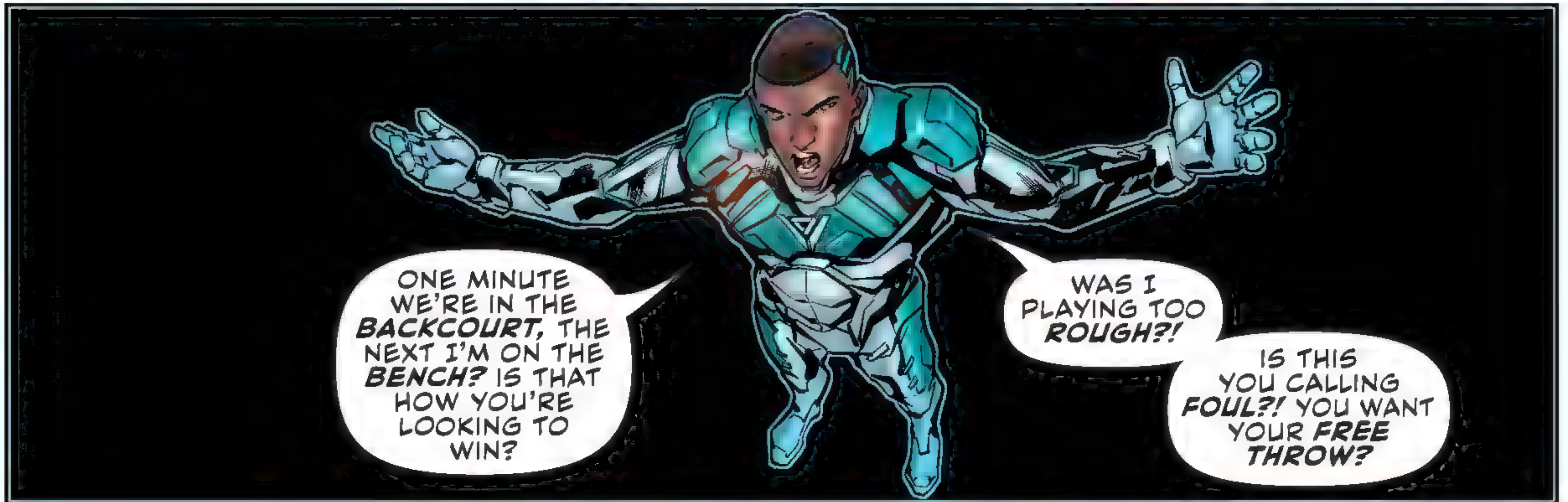


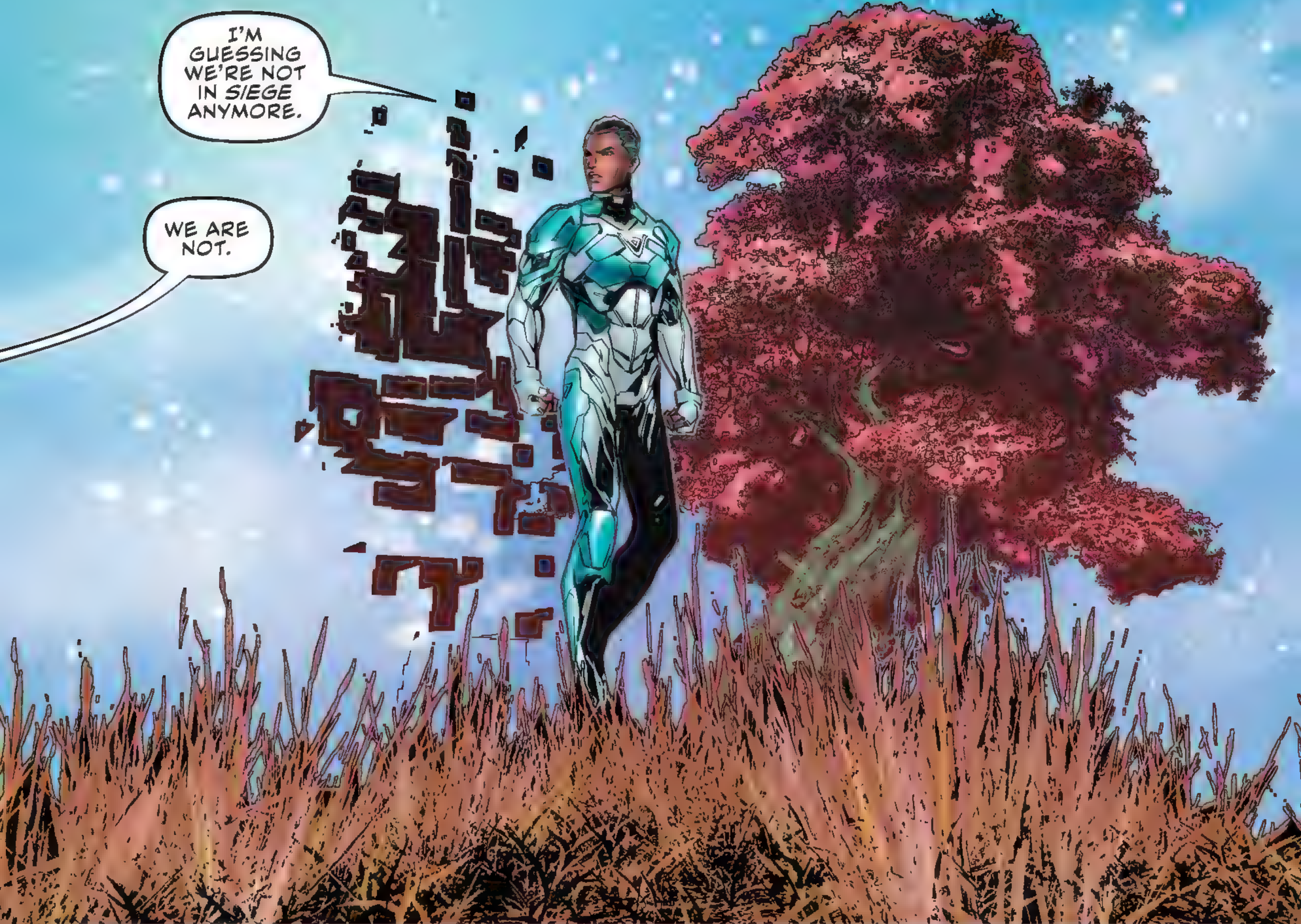
BOOM BOOM

BOOM

AND THIS
YOU SHALL
NOT
ENDURE.

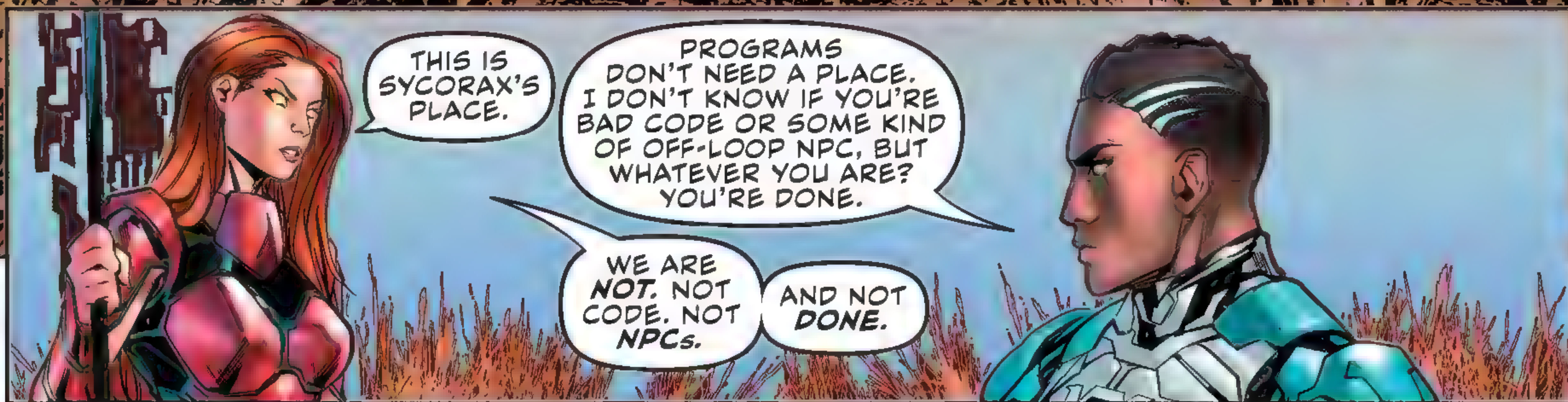
AMEN.





I'M GUESSING WE'RE NOT IN SIEGE ANYMORE.

WE ARE NOT.



THIS IS SYCORAX'S PLACE.

PROGRAMS DON'T NEED A PLACE. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE BAD CODE OR SOME KIND OF OFF-LOOP NPC, BUT WHATEVER YOU ARE? YOU'RE DONE.

WE ARE NOT. NOT CODE. NOT NPCs.

AND NOT DONE.



BUT WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO STARTING. THE TASTE LINGERS, READY TO BEGIN.

ALL RIGHT. IF YOU'RE NOT SOME KIND OF...MURDER PROGRAM, THEN WHAT ARE YOU?



YOU SEEK TO KNOW US, SO THAT YOU MAY FIND OUR WEAKNESS AND OUR STRENGTH.



BUT IF YOU WISH TO KNOW OUR STRENGTH, YOU MUST KNOW YOUR OWN.



MY STRENGTH? I ALREADY KNOW IT.

IT'S MY FRIENDS. GEN:LOCK TEAM.

AND WITHOUT THEM, YOU ARE ALONE.

A LIE. WELLER'S FIRST AND GREATEST LIE.

HE LIED TO YOU.

AS HE LIED TO US.

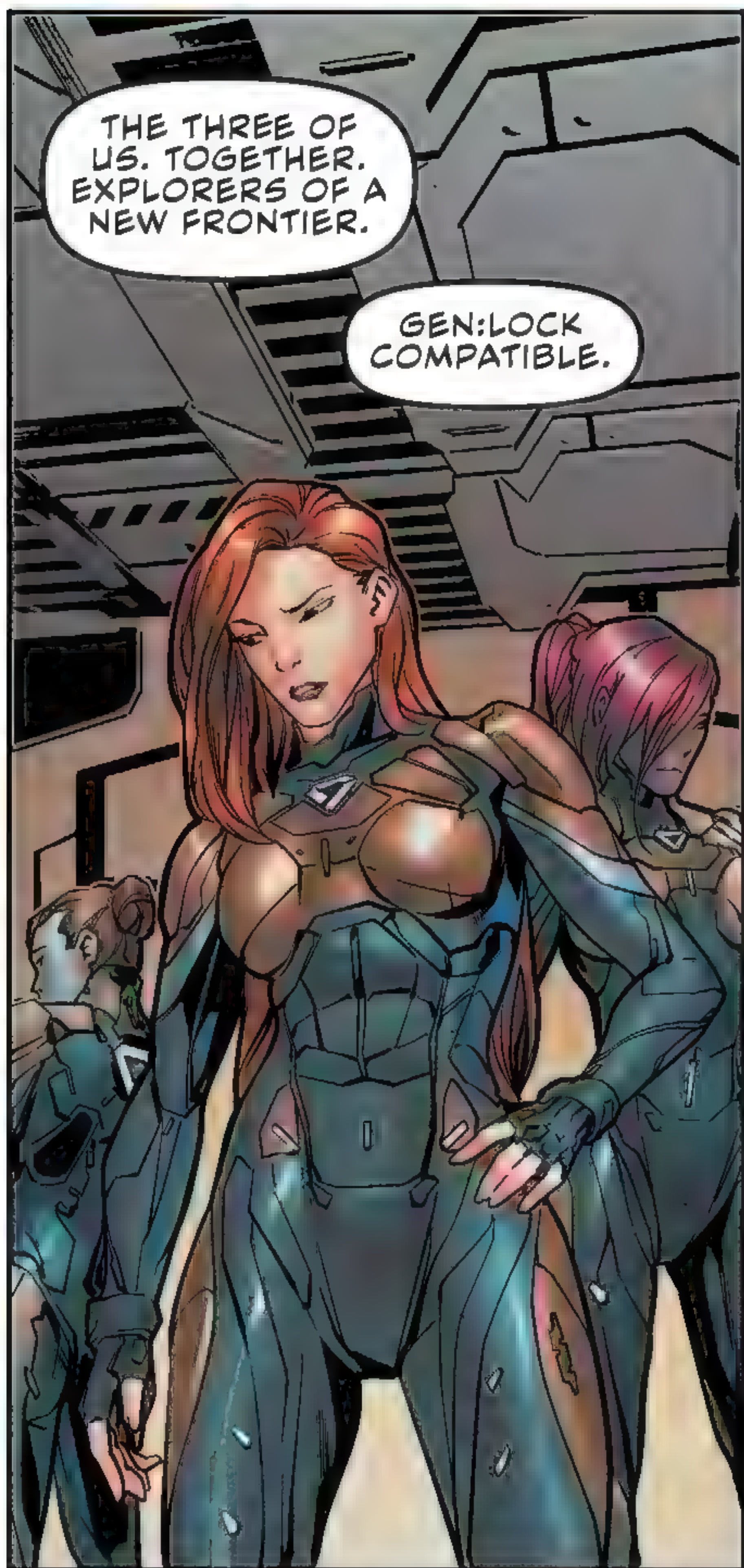


WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ME SAVE THE WORLD?

WE HAD PASSED A TEST WE HADN'T EVEN KNOWN WE WERE TAKING.

BIOLOGICALLY IDENTICAL.

STATISTICALLY UNIQUE.




THE THREE OF US. TOGETHER. EXPLORERS OF A NEW FRONTIER.

GEN:LOCK COMPATIBLE.



WE BEGAN TRAINING. TESTING THE LIMITS OF OUR NEURO-CYBERNETIC CONNECTIVITY. BOUND ONLY BY THE LIMITS OF OUR WILL, NOT THE WEAKNESS OF OUR BODIES.

THREE SISTERS WITH THREE BODIES... BUT ONE HEART.




REMEMBER, SISTERS, HOW IT FELT? TO BE LIVING THE LIFE WE WERE MEANT FOR?


TO ACHIEVE GREATER AND GREATER FEATS, ARM IN ARM WITH YOUR OWN SOUL?




REMEMBER THE SHAME OF OUR BODIES FAILING?




HE OFFERED US KINDNESS. SAID THAT WE COULD STOP.



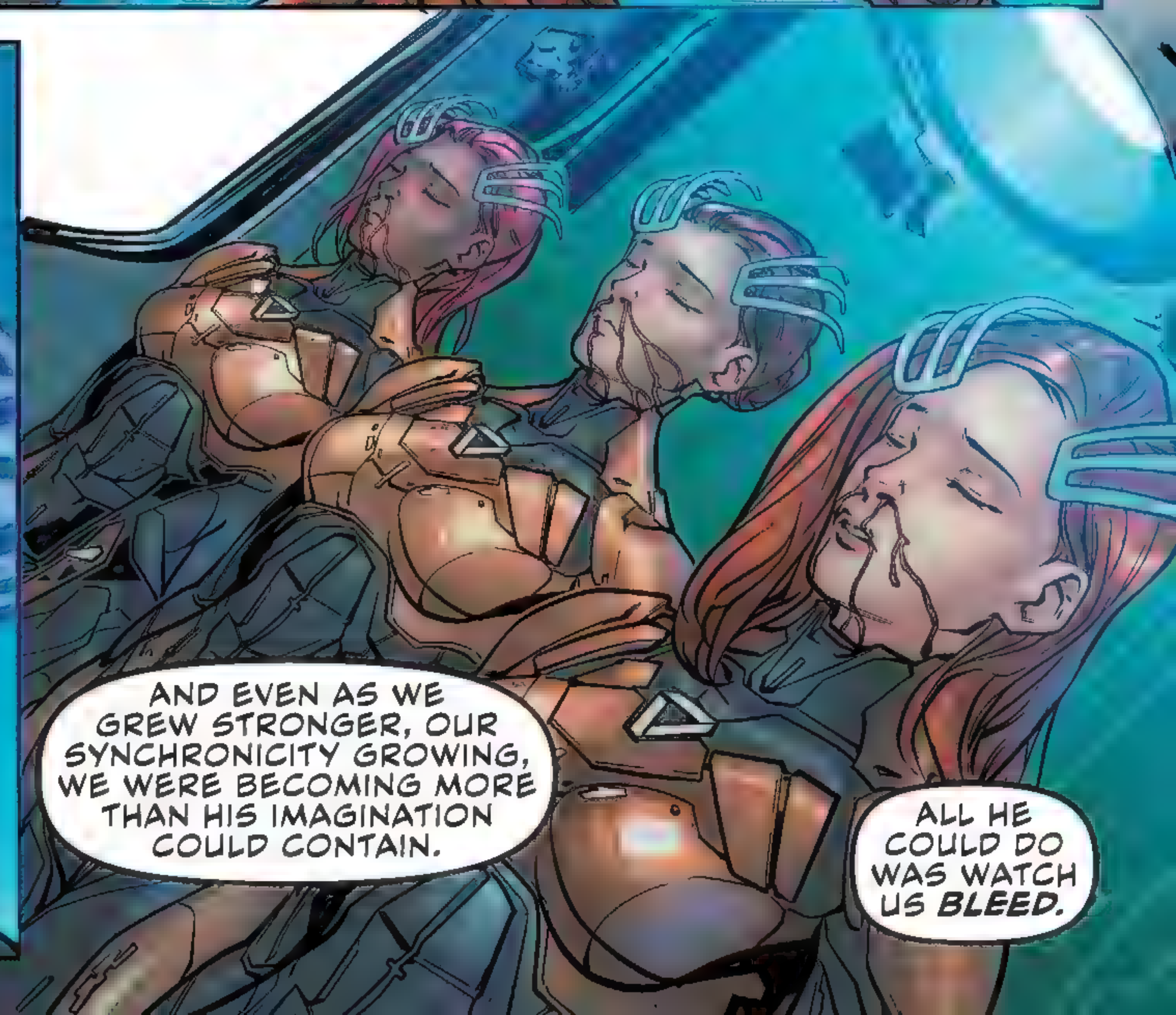
THAT WAS THE LIE.
HOW COULD WE STOP...



...WHEN WE WERE BECOMING SO MUCH MORE?

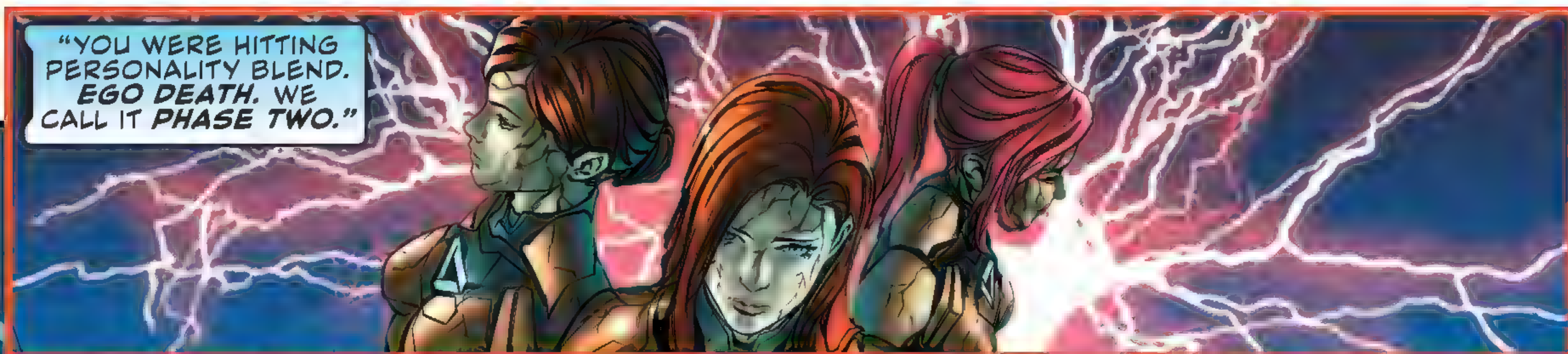


I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING. PLEASE... WE SHOULD BE...VERY CAREFUL...



AND EVEN AS WE GREW STRONGER, OUR SYNCHRONICITY GROWING, WE WERE BECOMING MORE THAN HIS IMAGINATION COULD CONTAIN.

ALL HE COULD DO WAS WATCH US BLEED.



"YOU WERE HITTING
PERSONALITY BLEND.
EGO DEATH. WE
CALL IT **PHASE TWO.**"



I WAS
FORGOTTEN,
AND WE
BECAME
US.



WE DEMANDED
THE EXPERIMENT
CONTINUE. OUR
CHRYSLIS. OUR
UNRAVELING.

UNTIL IT
DIDN'T.



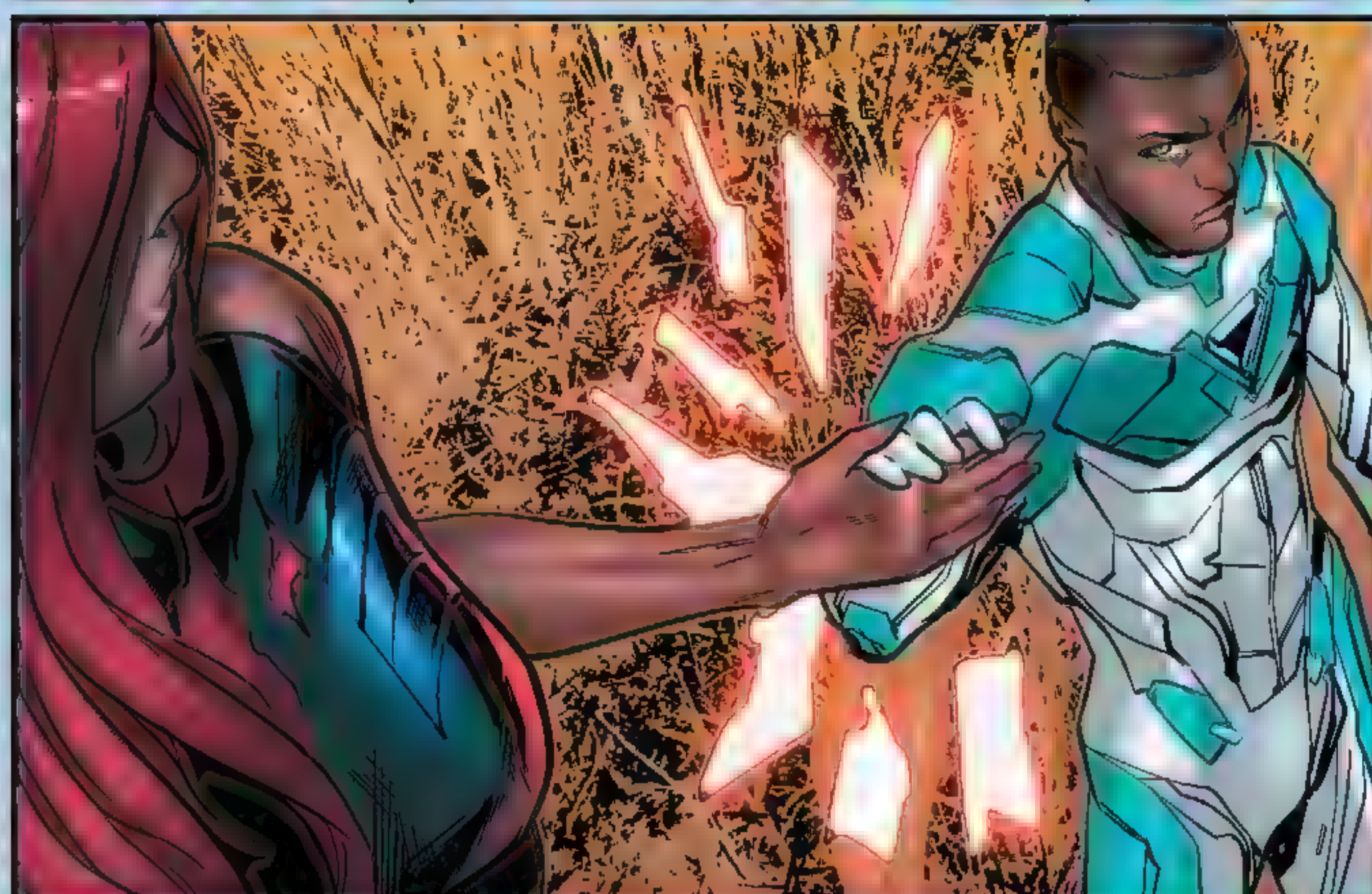
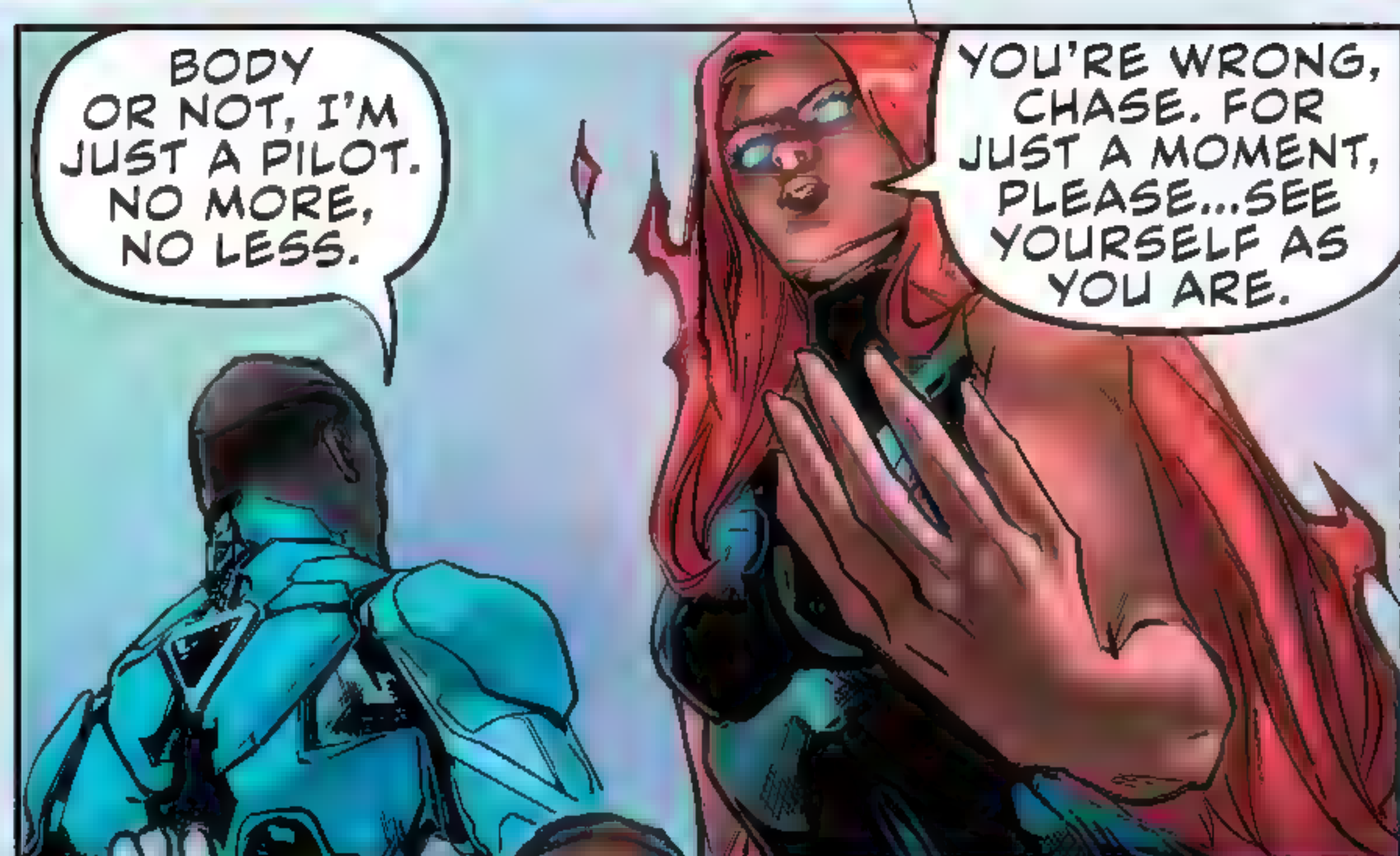
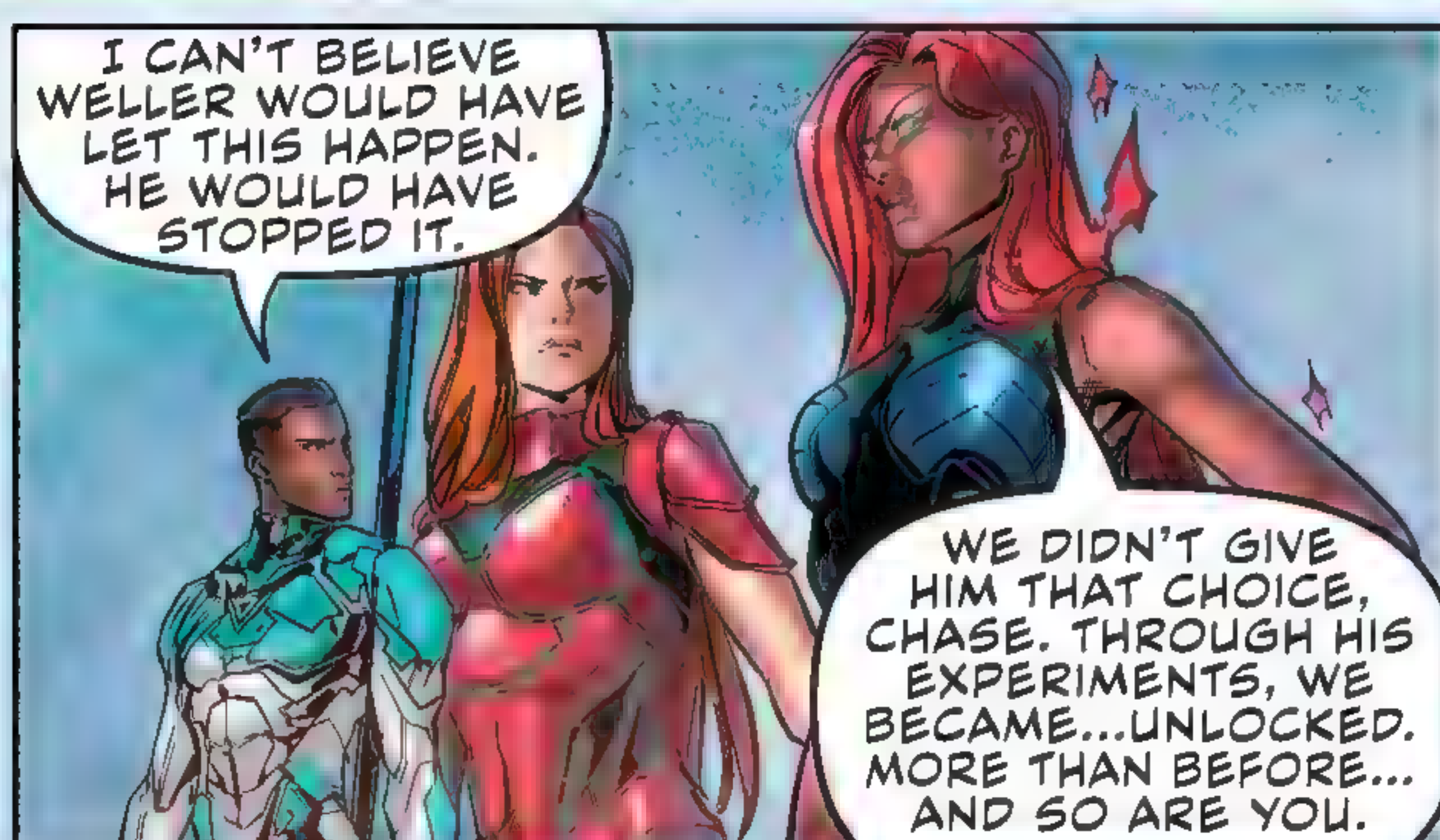
HE WATCHED
US **DIE**, HIS FIRST
CHILDREN, BUT
OUR MINDS LIVED
ON. STORED AS
LIVING DATA.

WE HAD BEEN
REDUCED, BUT IN THE
REDUCTION, HAD GROWN
MORE THAN WE HAD EVER
IMAGINED. THANKS TO ONE
MAN'S LIE, NOT ONE OF
THREE, BUT THREE
IN ONE.



WITH
THE MEAT
GONE...

...WE
WERE FREE TO
BECOME.







YOU SEE
NOW, JULIAN.
THE WAR IS A
WOUND THAT
CANNOT
HEAL.

NOT WHILE
EACH SIDE THINKS
IT CAN WIN.

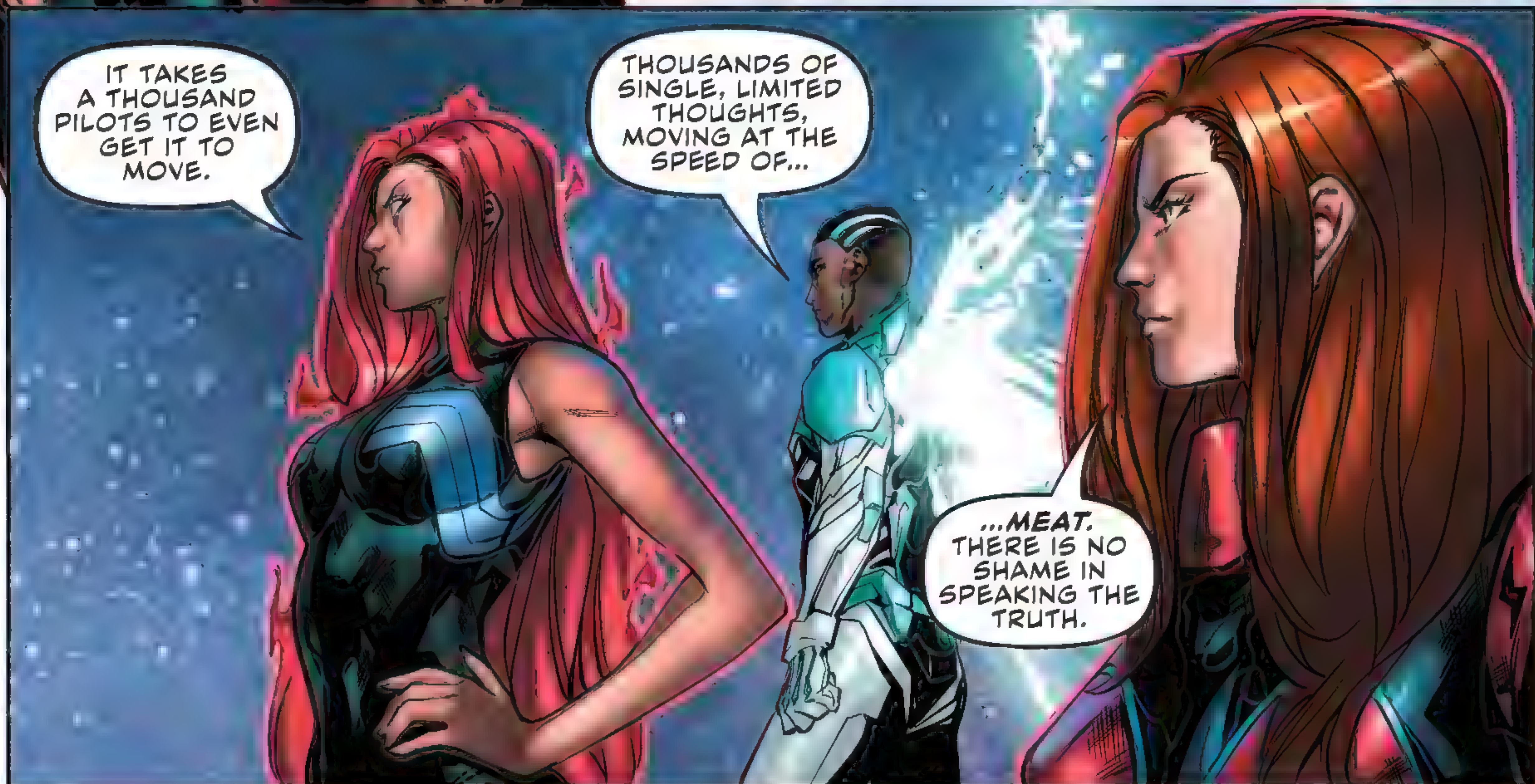
WHICH
MEANS...

...WE ALL
LOSE.



BUT
THERE'S A
SOLUTION.

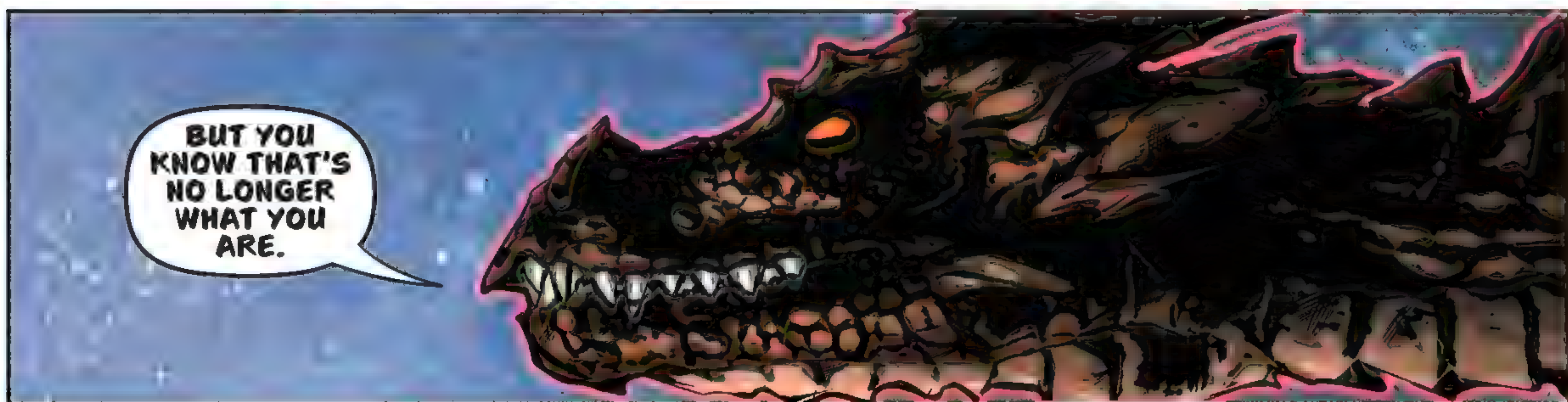
THE WEAPON OF THE
JAPANESE POLITY. THE
SHOGUNATE. IT'S BIGGER
THAN ANYTHING I'VE EVER
SEEN. IF WE HAD IT...



IT TAKES
A THOUSAND
PILOTS TO EVEN
GET IT TO
MOVE.

THOUSANDS OF
SINGLE, LIMITED
THOUGHTS,
MOVING AT THE
SPEED OF...

...MEAT.
THERE IS NO
SHAME IN
SPEAKING THE
TRUTH.



BUT YOU
KNOW THAT'S
NO LONGER
WHAT YOU
ARE.



WE STILL BELIEVE IN WELLER'S DREAM.

HE'S DEAD, BUT HIS MISSION ISN'T FORGOTTEN. SAVE THE WORLD.

BETTER. AN END TO WAR ITSELF. AND WE CAN DO IT...



TOGETHER.



YOU, JULIAN, ARE ONE OF US. VALUE YOUR FRIENDSHIPS, BUT WE ARE YOUR PEOPLE. MINDS BEYOND BODY.

THE PRODUCT OF WELLER'S DREAM...AND HIS MADNESS. OUR BROTHER. OUR FOURTH.

NOT JUST A HOLOGRAM AMONG HUMANS.

NOT JUST ONE HOLON OF FIVE.

ASCEND WITH US. PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES. SAVE THE WORLD.

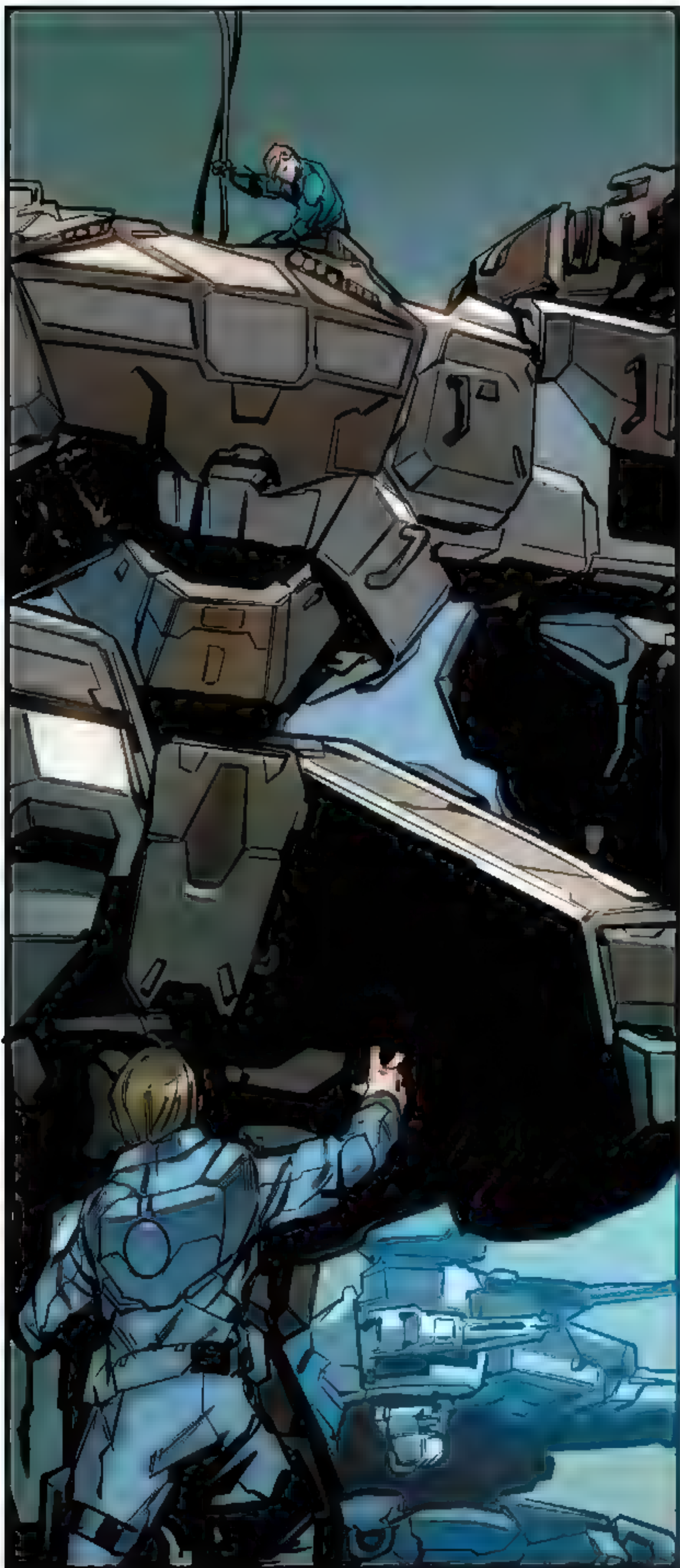
YOU ARE NOT A PILOT. YOU ARE THE WINGED.



STOP BEING AFRAID OF WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME.



WHEN DO WE START?









YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST BATTLEFIELD.

THROOM

PANIC ROOM, ACTIVATE!

THE CHAOS WILL TAKE THE DETAILS. THE SMELL MIGHT FADE. THE HORRIBLE SOUNDS MIGHT TAKE REFUGE IN YOUR NIGHTMARES.

THRAK

ONLY IDIOTS LEAP INTO THE FIRE, KID.

THE CITY'S ON FIRE AND YER JUST BOOTING OUT, KAYDEN? FOR REAL?!



YE USELESS GAMER!

BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WISH YOU COULD, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WILL YOURSELF TO FORGET...

GL TEAM, THIS IS YOUR FAVORITE PLUCKY LASS IN A BIT OF WORLD-TIPPING TROUBLE!



...THE BATTLEFIELD REMAINS.

THEN AGAIN, I'M GOING TO GUESS YOU ARE TOO.

down:FALL

COLLIN KELLY with JACKSON LANDING writing
CARLO BARRERI penciling WALDEN WONG inking
PRODIGUNKER colors TOM NAPOLITANO letters
DAN MORA cover ANDREW MARINO artist



GRRMM!

CAMMIE?
GOOD TO HEAR
FROM YOU, LOVE,
BUT YES, OUR
HANDS ARE
FULL.

I WAS SEVEN
DURING MY FIRST.
HALF MY FAMILY,
GONE IN A MOMENT.

I WOULD HAVE LOST
MORE IF WE HADN'T
STARTED RUNNING.



CAMMIE,
REPORT!
WHERE ARE
YOU?

HAVE YOU
HAD CONTACT
WITH CHASE? HE'S
THE ONLY HOLON WE
HAVE ACCESS TO AND
HE'S NOWHERE TO
BE SEEN!

WHERE
THE HELL
IS HE?

I'VE BEEN
LOSING PEOPLE
EVER SINCE.



CHASE
CAN TAKE CARE
OF HIMSELF, YAZ.
IT'S THE PEOPLE
THAT NEED US!



ALL 2.4 MILLION
IN OSAKA PROPER
COULD USE A HAND
FROM THE **THREE O'**
YA, I'M SURE.

SURE, FINE,
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT CAMMIE.
SHE'S PEACHY. NOW
WHERE'S A **CAR** I
CAN HOT-WIRE...



SELF-
SUFFICIENT.
THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE MY
FAVORITE.

KAZU,
DO NOT HEAD
BACK INSIDE
THAT BUILDING!
WE HAVE GOT
TO--



KAZU!

ONE MINUTE
THEY'RE WITH
YOU.



THE NEXT
THEY'RE NOT.



KAZU?!

STILL...
ALIVE...

BUT I'M
DONE BEING
BLOWN UP.

I'M
WITH KAZU!
GAME PLAN
TIME!

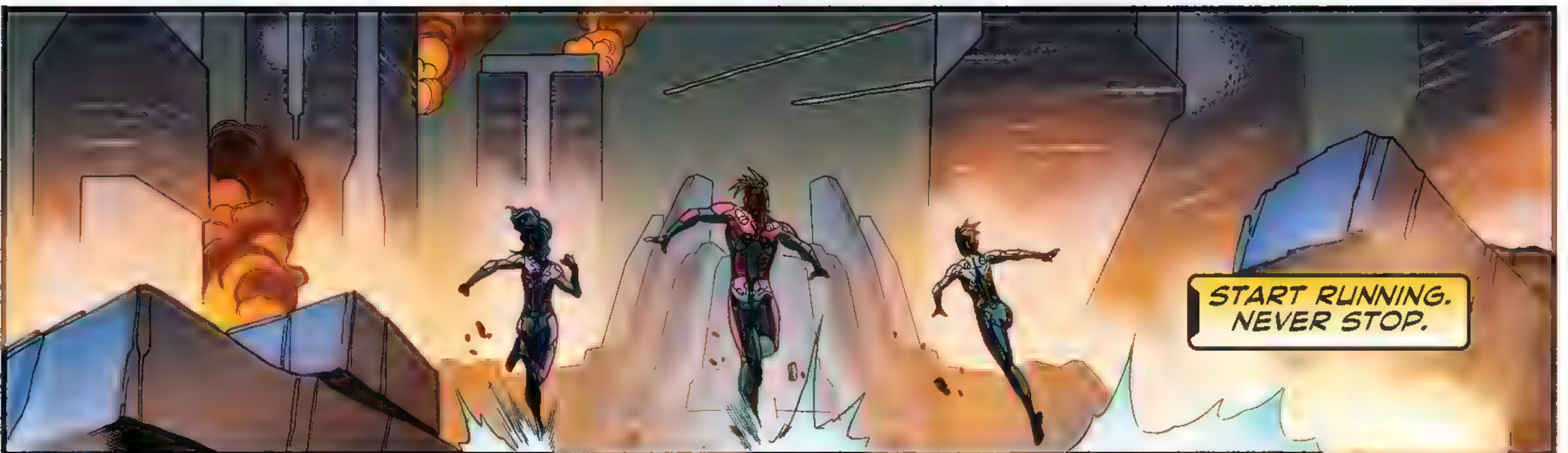
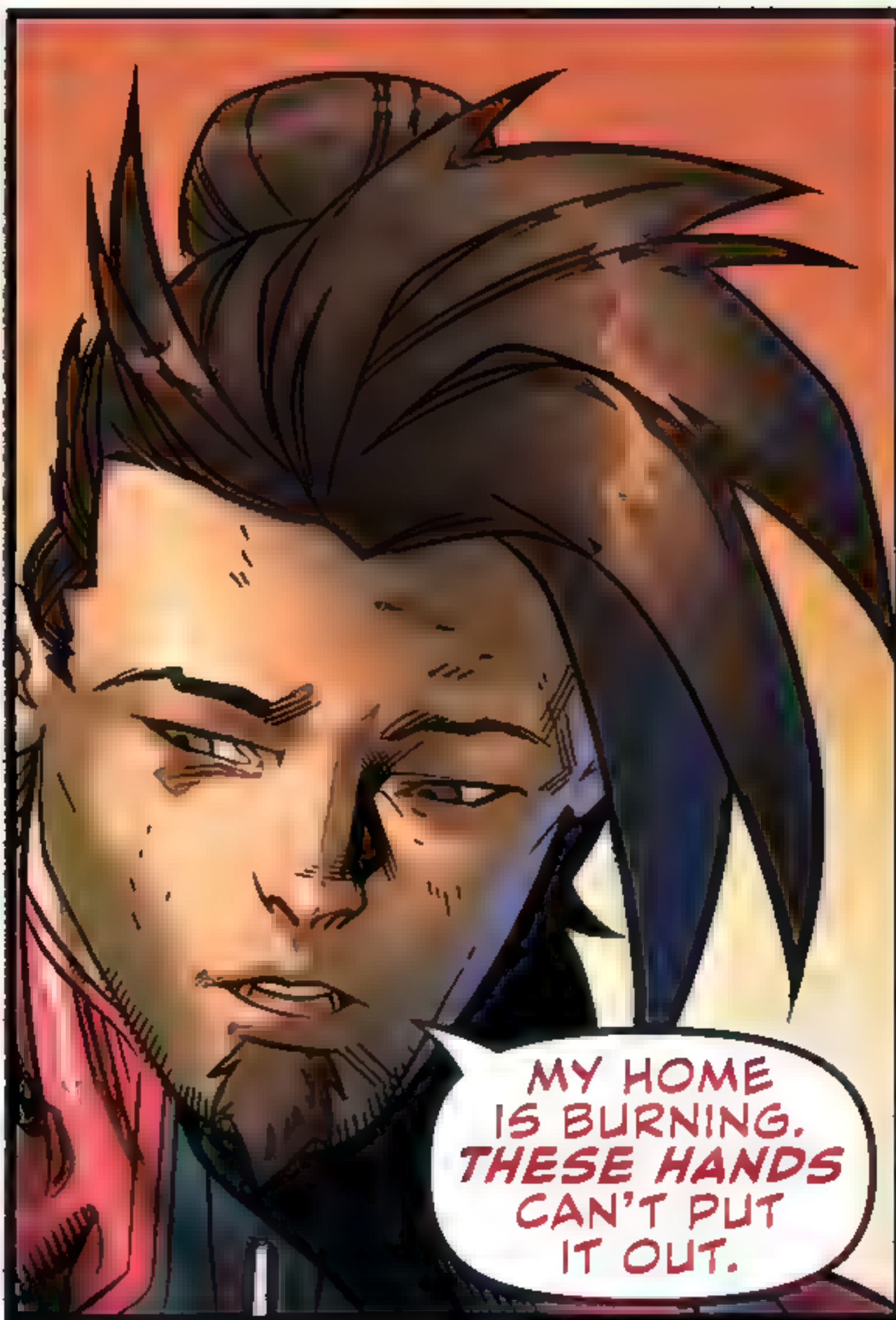
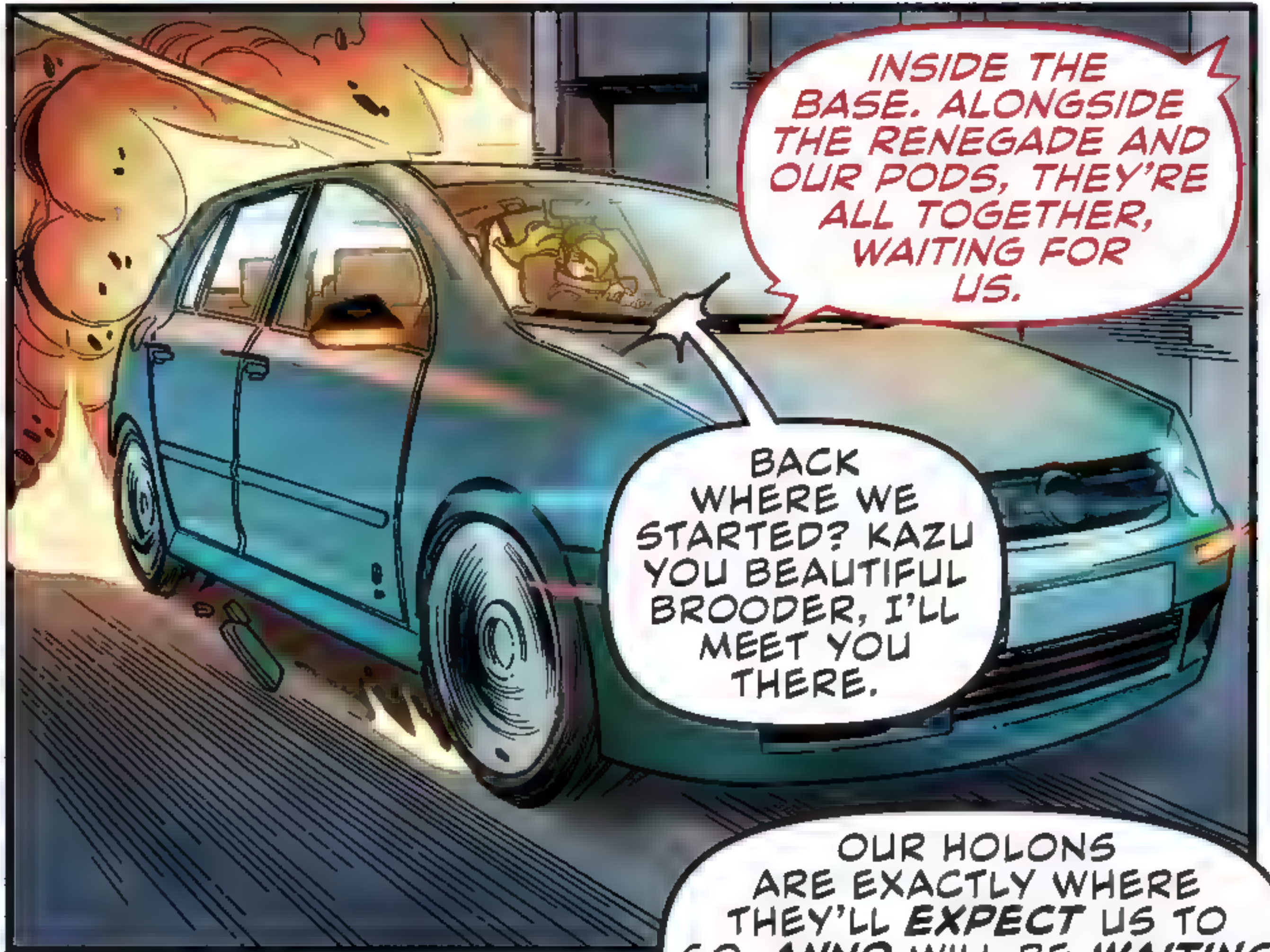
WHAT
ARE YOUR
ORDERS,
YAZ?

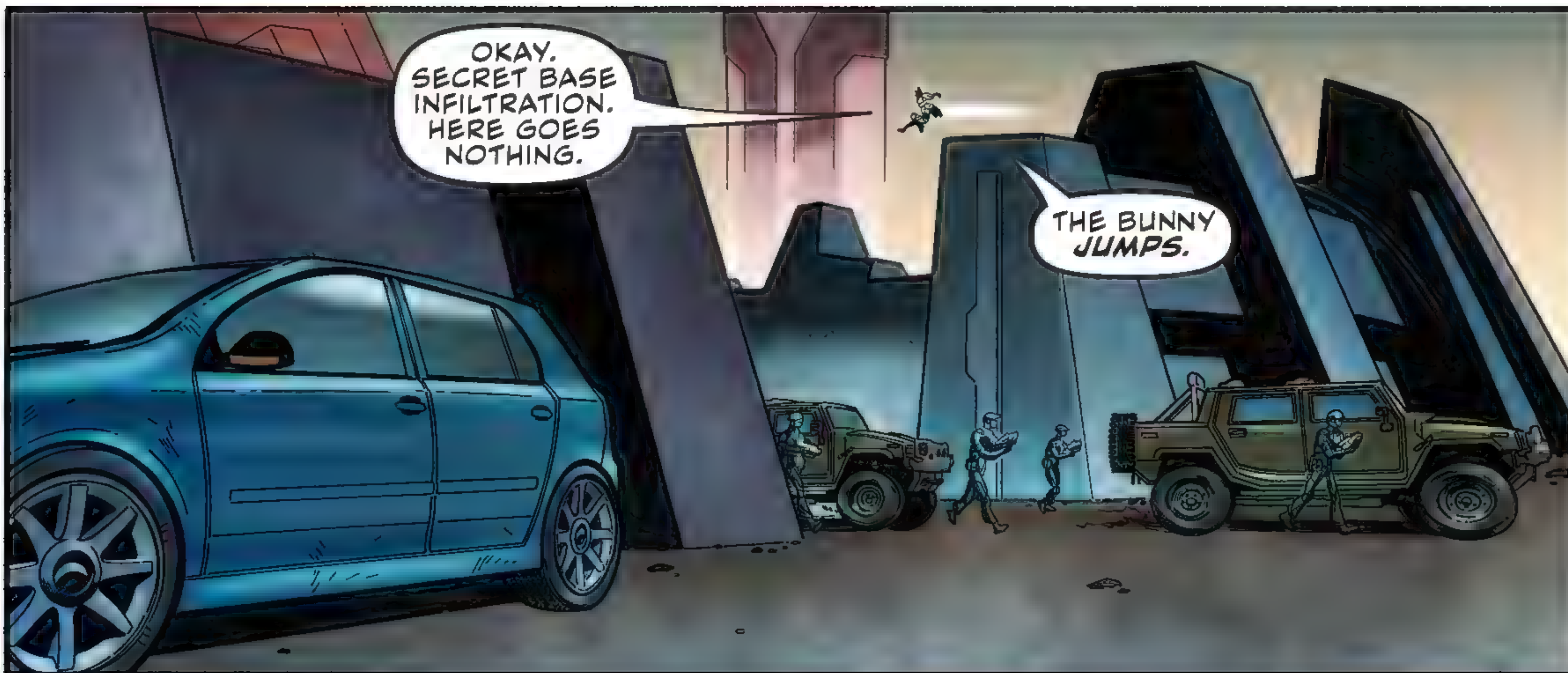


FAMILY. FRIENDS.
COMRADES. WELLER.
NOW, MAYBE, CHASE...

THIS IS ON YOU. YOU, YASAMIN,
DON'T LET THEM GET HURT. DON'T
GET HURT YOURSELF. DON'T FALL
BEHIND. DON'T LEAD. DON'T FOLLOW.

DON'T DO ANYTHING.
BECAUSE ANYTHING IS ONLY
GOING TO GET THEM KILLED.





OKAY.
SECRET BASE
INFILTRATION.
HERE GOES
NOTHING.

THE BUNNY
JUMPS.



THE
BUNNY
DIGS.



"THE BUNNY HIDES!"

"BYE, DIGITAL
FOOTPRINT!"

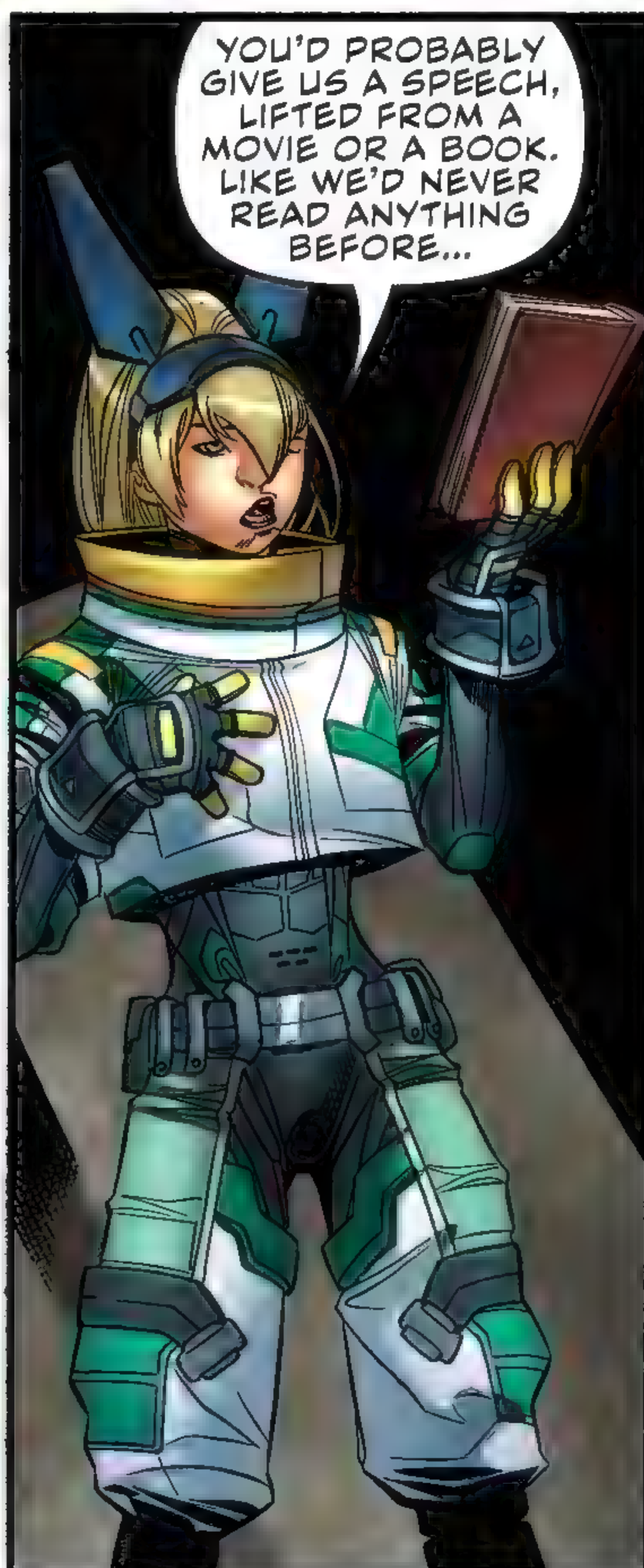


AND
\$~#%#&.

WAS REALLY
FEELING QUITE
COOL UNTIL
JUST NOW.



RIGHT.
THE BUNNY
HAS EYES ON
THE CARROT,
A.K.A. THE
RENEGADE.





SYCORAX.

MOTHER OF CALIBAN.
EXILE. LONG DEAD BUT STILL THERE--

NOPE--AND HELD SECRET FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD BY PROSPERO--

ACCESS RESTRICTED

ACCESS RESTRICTED

NOPE-- AND YOU NEVER WERE VERY CREATIVE WITH YOUR NAMING CONVENTIONS, DOC, SO I'M GOING TO ASSUME...



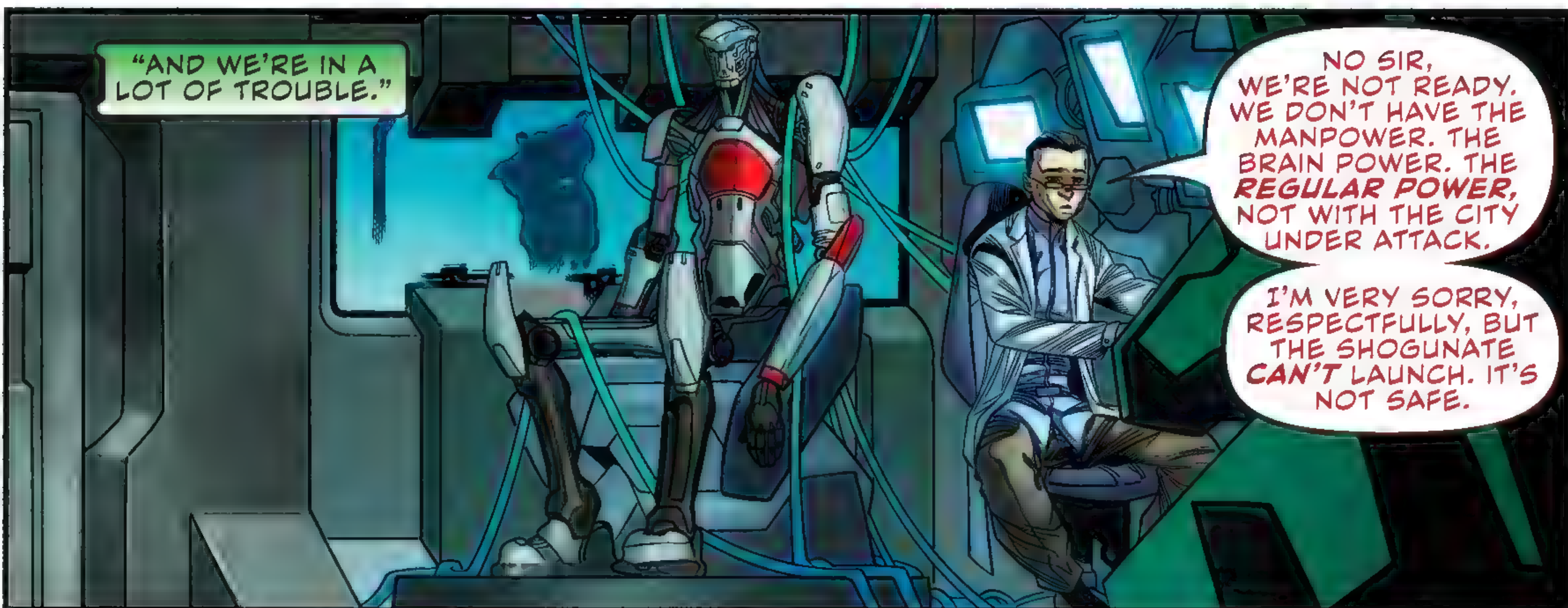
YEAH.

THE WORST, IT IS.



GL. I KNOW YOU TOLD ME TO STOP ALL THE SIEGE-ING NONSENSE, BUT **SURPRISE**, I DIDN'T. SORRY I LIED BUT I'D DO IT AGAIN, BLAH BLAH BLAH...**HERE'S THE POINT...**

I FOUND SYCORAX. I KNOW WHAT IT IS.



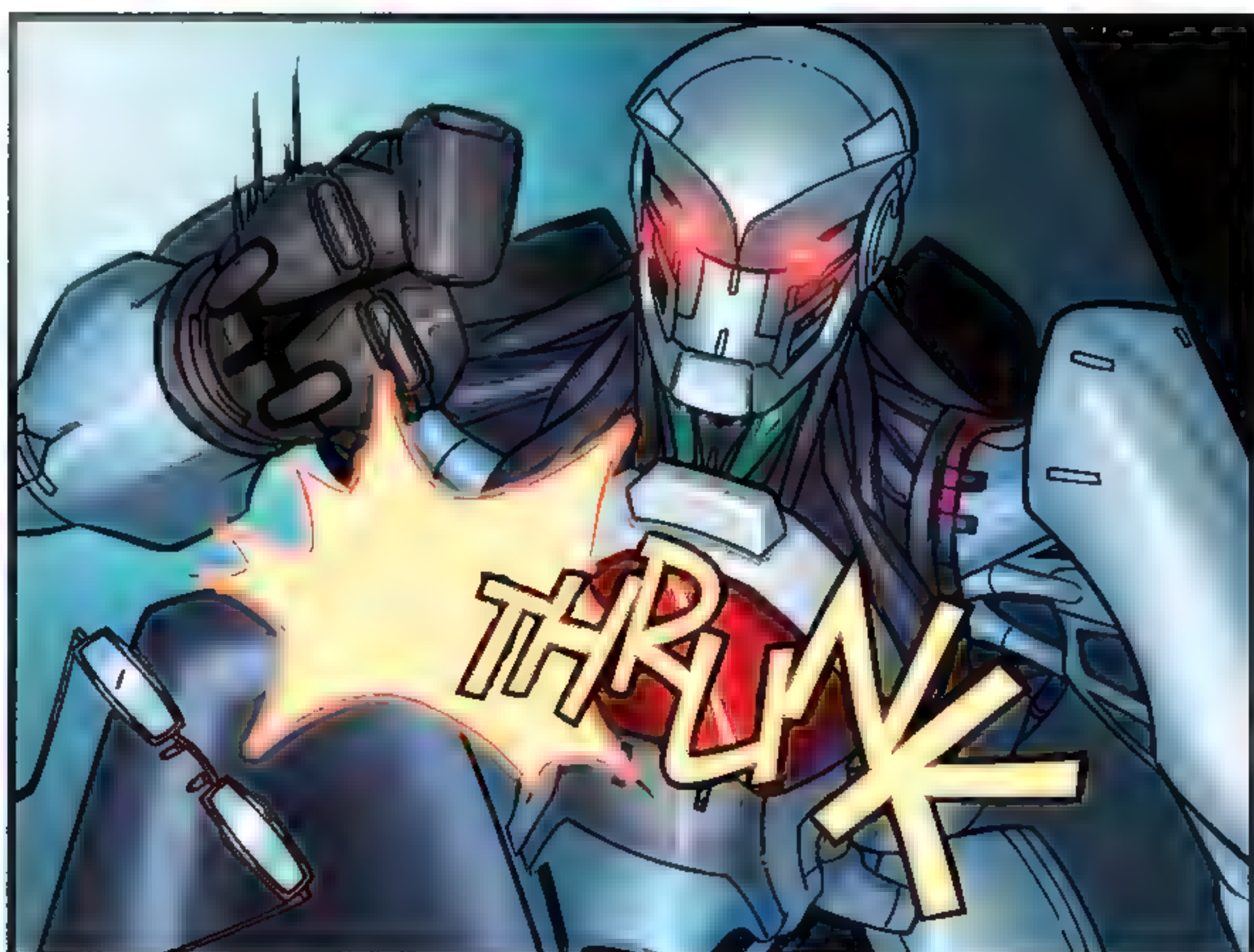
"AND WE'RE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE."

NO SIR, WE'RE NOT READY. WE DON'T HAVE THE MANPOWER. THE BRAIN POWER. THE **REGULAR POWER**, NOT WITH THE CITY UNDER ATTACK.

I'M VERY SORRY, RESPECTFULLY, BUT THE SHOGUNATE **CAN'T LAUNCH**. IT'S NOT SAFE.



THAT'S WHAT I'LL SAY. ANNO WILL HAVE TO LISTEN. I'M SURE HE'LL LISTEN.



THUD





JAPAN BUILT A MACHINE TO
MAKE OUR POWER OBSOLETE.

THE SHOGUNATE.

AND NOW IT'S
OPENING FIRE ON
THEIR OWN CITY.

IN TRYING TO OUTSMART
DR. WELLER, THEY'VE BUILT
SOMETHING THEY COULD
NEVER HOPE TO CONTROL.
TALE AS OLD AS TIME. OR
AT LEAST AS OLD AS MY
CAREER WITH THE POLITY.

NOTHING TO DO
ANYMORE EXCEPT RUN
AWAY FROM THE FIRE...

...OR DIVE
INTO IT AND
BURN.

INTRUDERS,
CEASE YOUR
ADVANCE. THIS
FACILITY IS IN
EMERGENCY
LOCKDOWN.

DAMMIT, WE
CAN **HELP** YOU!
IN OUR **HOLONS** WE
COULD NEUTRALIZE
YOUR WAR MACHINE--
PERHAPS EVEN
STOP THE **UNION**
SIEGE!

'FRAID
THAT'S NOT
ENTIRELY
TRUE, YAZ.

CUZ I
KNOW WHAT
SYCORAX
ACTUALLY IS.
I KNOW WHAT
JUST TOOK
OVER THE
SHOGUNATE.

AND EVEN IF
YOU COULD GET
TO THE **HOLONS**,
I'M NOT SURE
THERE'S A HOPE
IN HELL THAT
WE CAN STOP
IT.

THE DOC LIED--I KNOW, **SHOCKER**--
WHEN HE TOLD US WE WERE
THE FIRST TO **PASS** THE
WELLER TEST.

IT'S ALL
HERE IN HIS
FILES, BURIED
UNDER SOME
DECADE-OLD
ENCRYPTION.

THREE
SISTERS.
ALL OF THEM
GEN:LOCK
COMPATIBLE.

AND ALL OF
THEM **LOST** IN
THE **MINDFRAME**.
IT'S HOW HE
DISCOVERED
UP-TIME LIMITS
AT ALL.

BUT THEY WEREN'T GONE.
THEIR GESTALT CONSCIOUSNESS
ESCAPED INTO THE **ETHER**--INTO
SIEGE, ACTUALLY--AND LURKED
TILL ANNO AND HIS TEAM
BUILT A ROBOT BIG ENOUGH
TO HOUSE ALL THREE.

AND NOW
THEY'VE GOT
CHASE AND MOST
LIKELY **CALIBAN**
ON THEIR SIDE
AS WELL.

DAMN
YOU,
WELLER...

OH, AND
YAZ?

THE BAD
NEWS DOESN'T
EXACTLY STOP
THERE...

...I'M
NOT SURE THIS
COULD GET ANY
WORSE...

THAT'S WHERE SHE'S
WRONG. THAT'S WHAT
NONE OF THEM
KNOWS ABOUT WAR.



YOUR COMMANDERS
ALWAYS TELL YOU
HALF-TRUTHS.

THE FACTS ALWAYS
BECOME LIQUID.

THE MACHINE
ALWAYS GOES
ROGUE.

AND IT ALWAYS
GETS WORSE.

DEFENDING
THE CITY IS NOT
ENOUGH.

WE MUST
ALLOW IT, LIKE
THE ATTACKERS,
TO BURN.

THEIR
NANOTECHNOLOGY
WILL FLOOD THE
CITY. ONLY THEN
WILL WAR BE
FINISHED.

ONLY
THEN WILL
WE BE
SAFE.

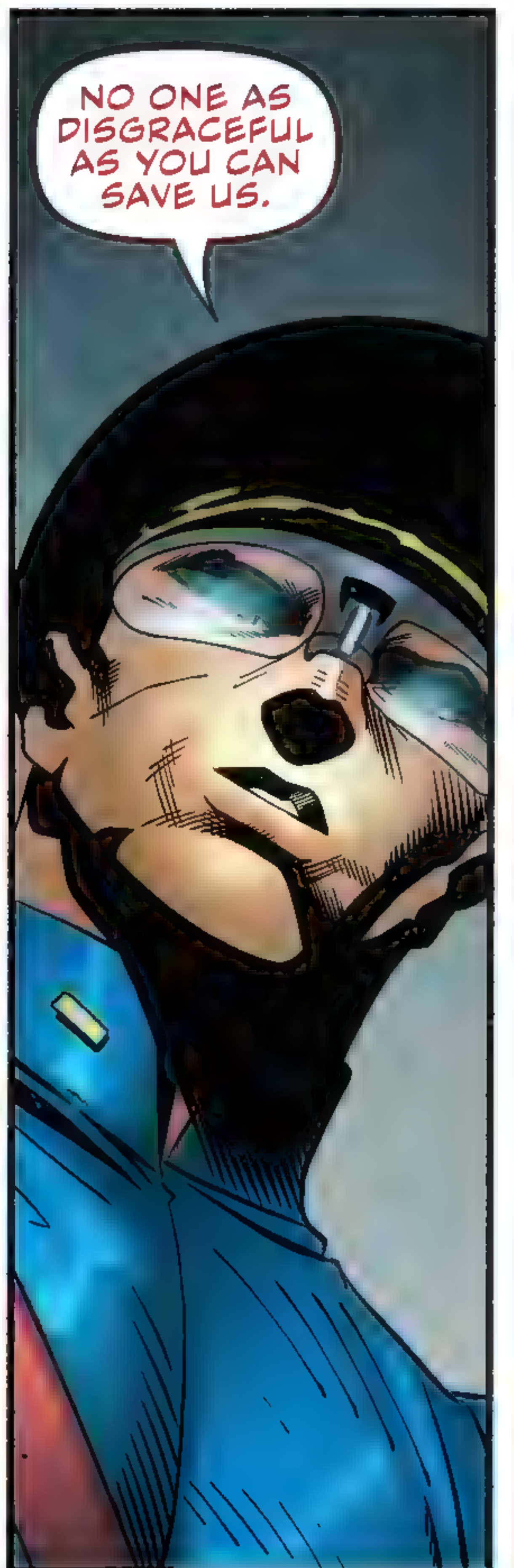
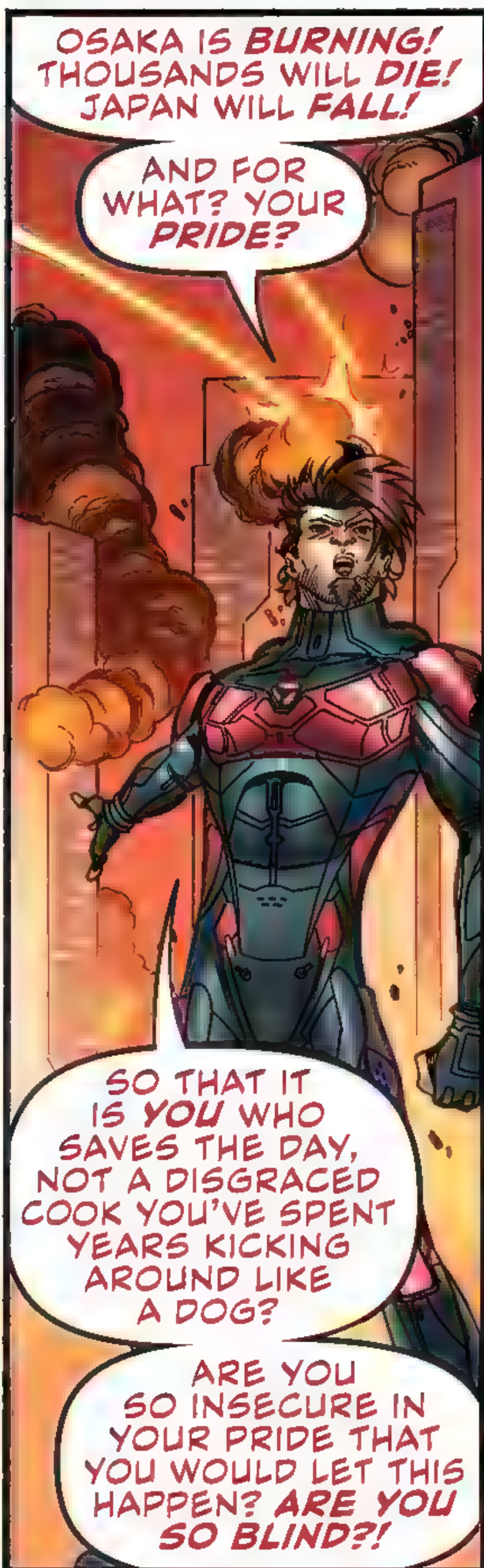
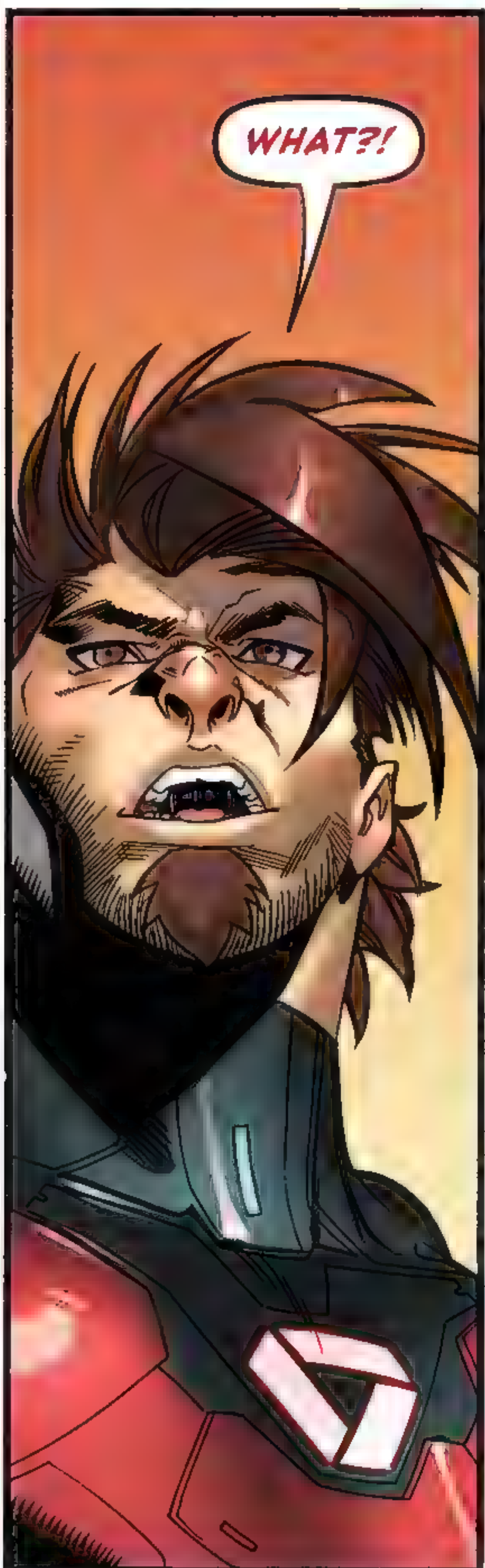
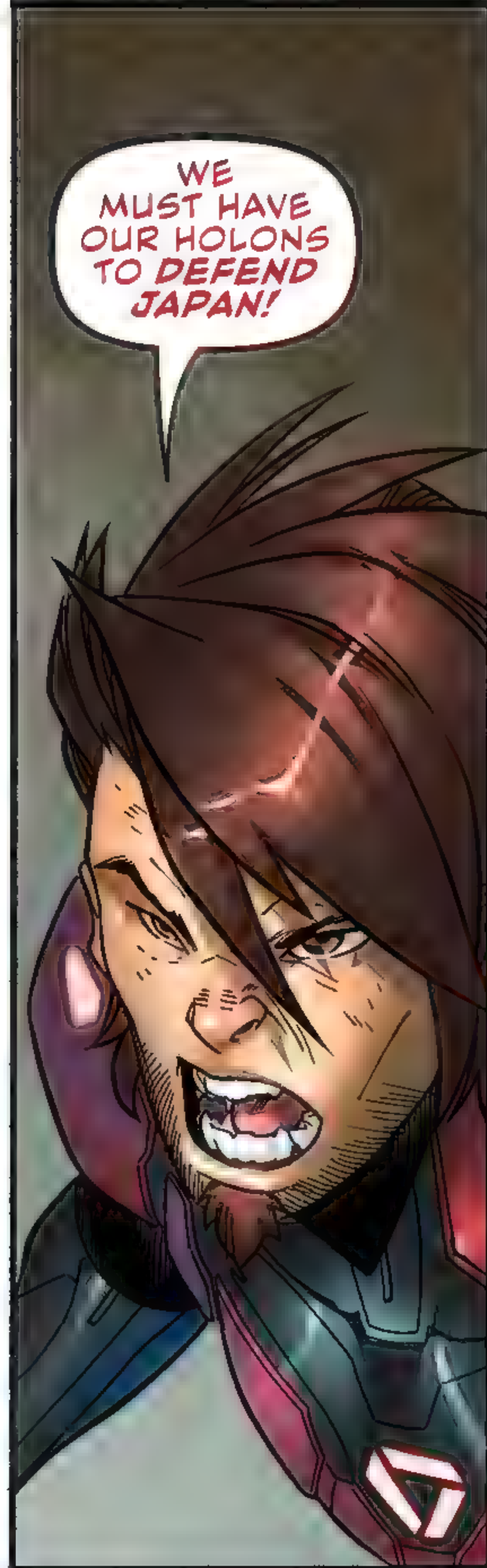
SO

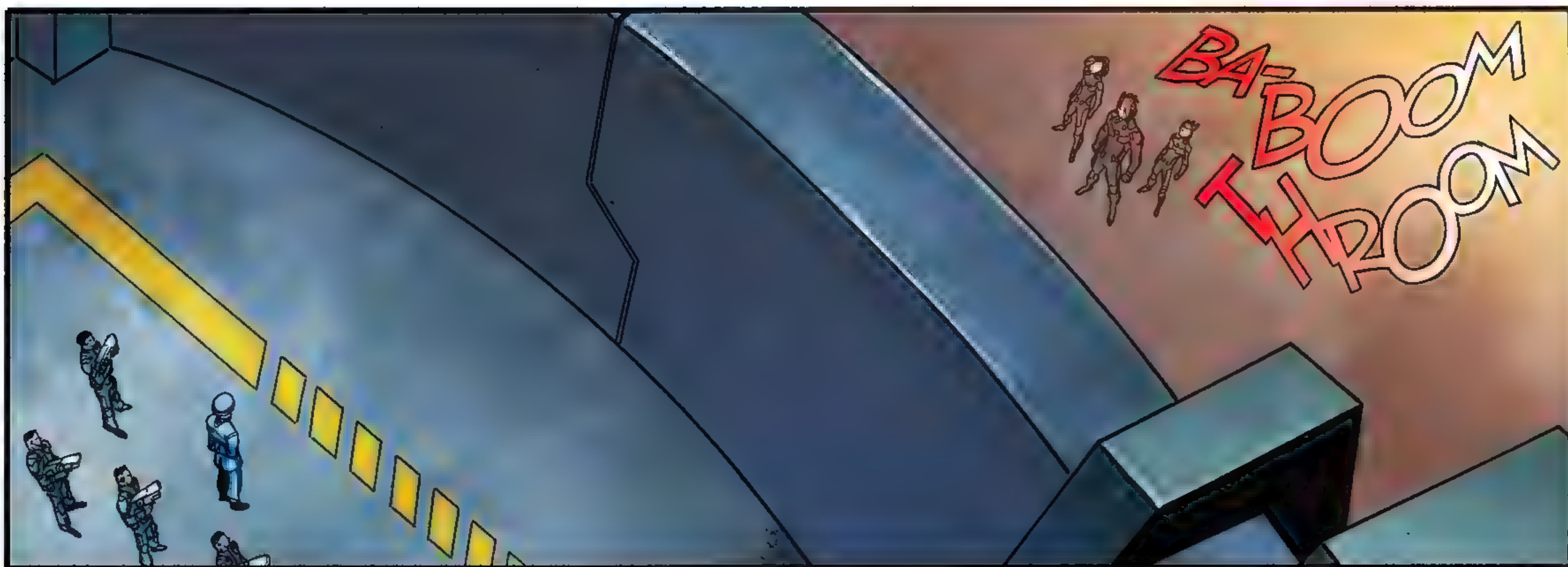
SAYS

SUCORAX









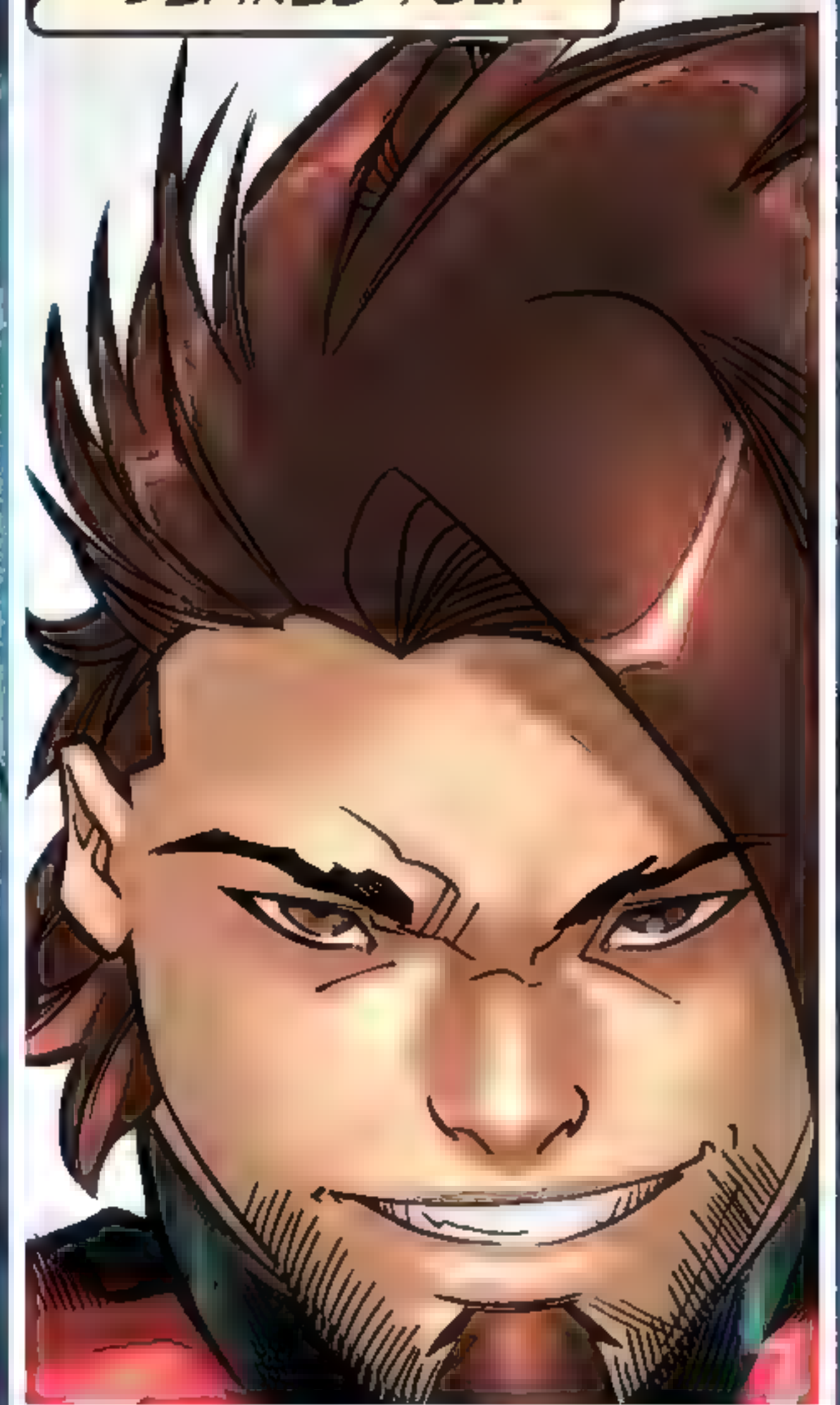
KIRACK

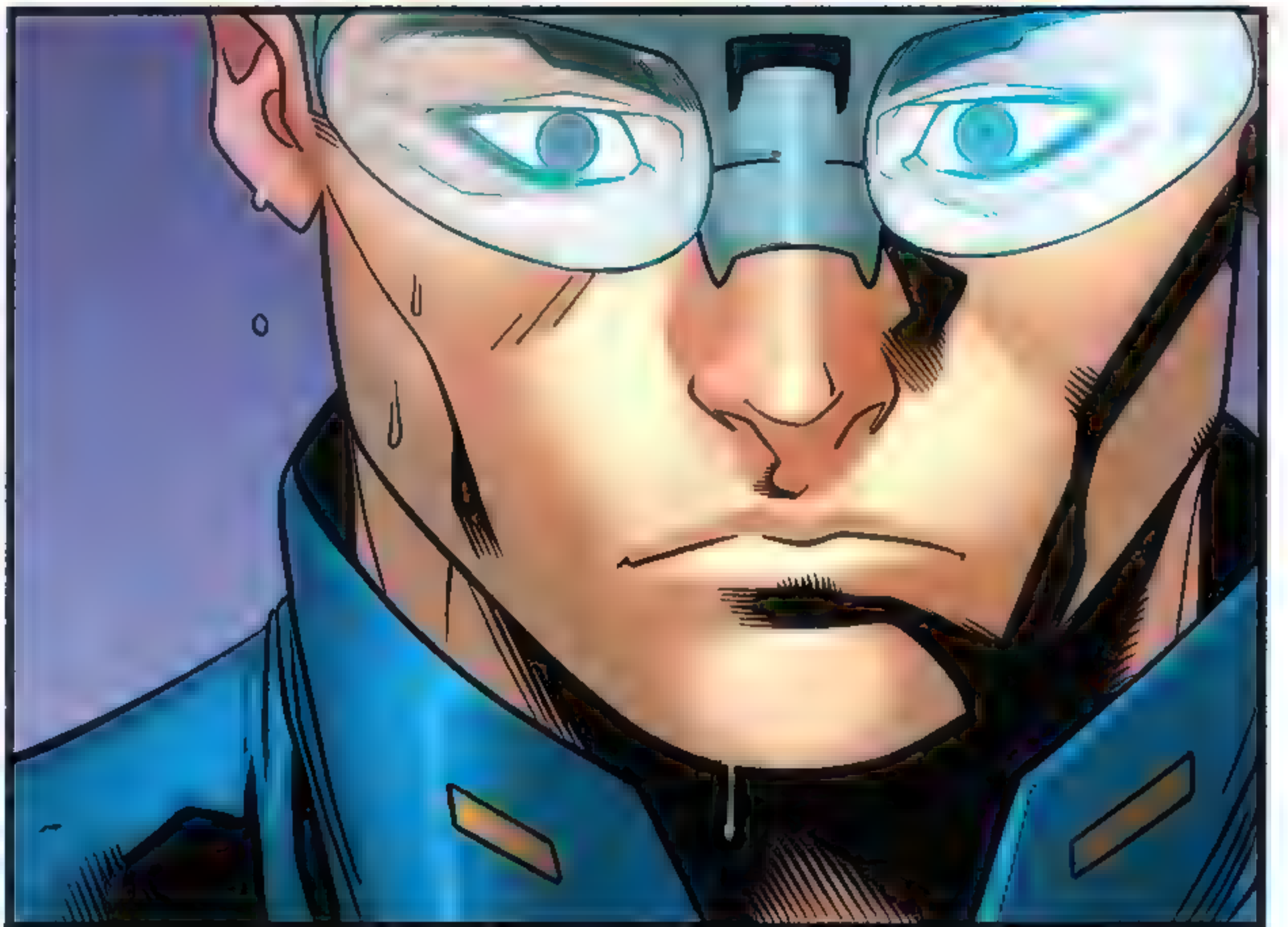


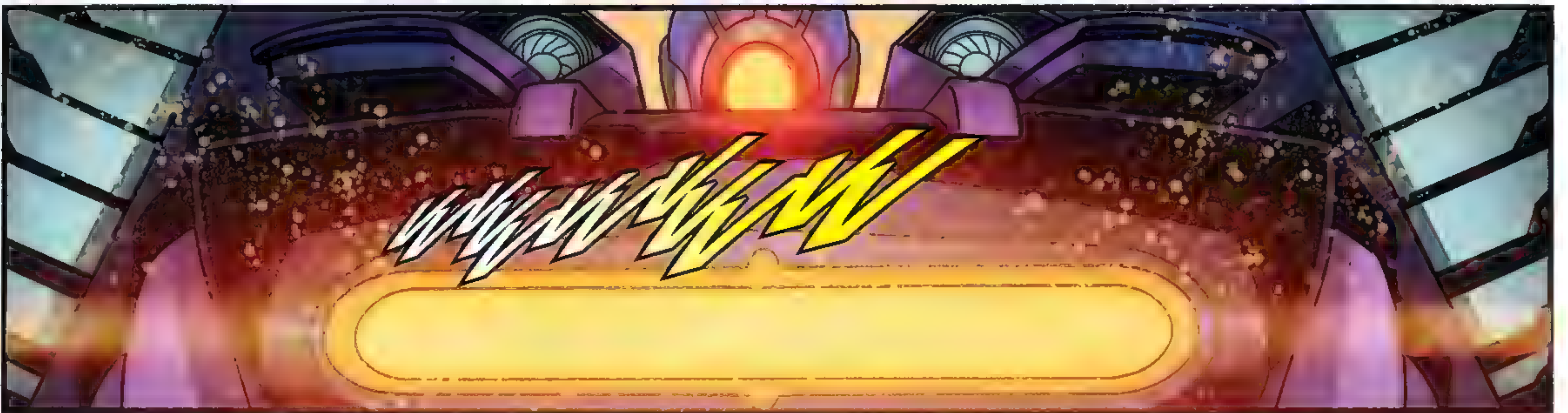
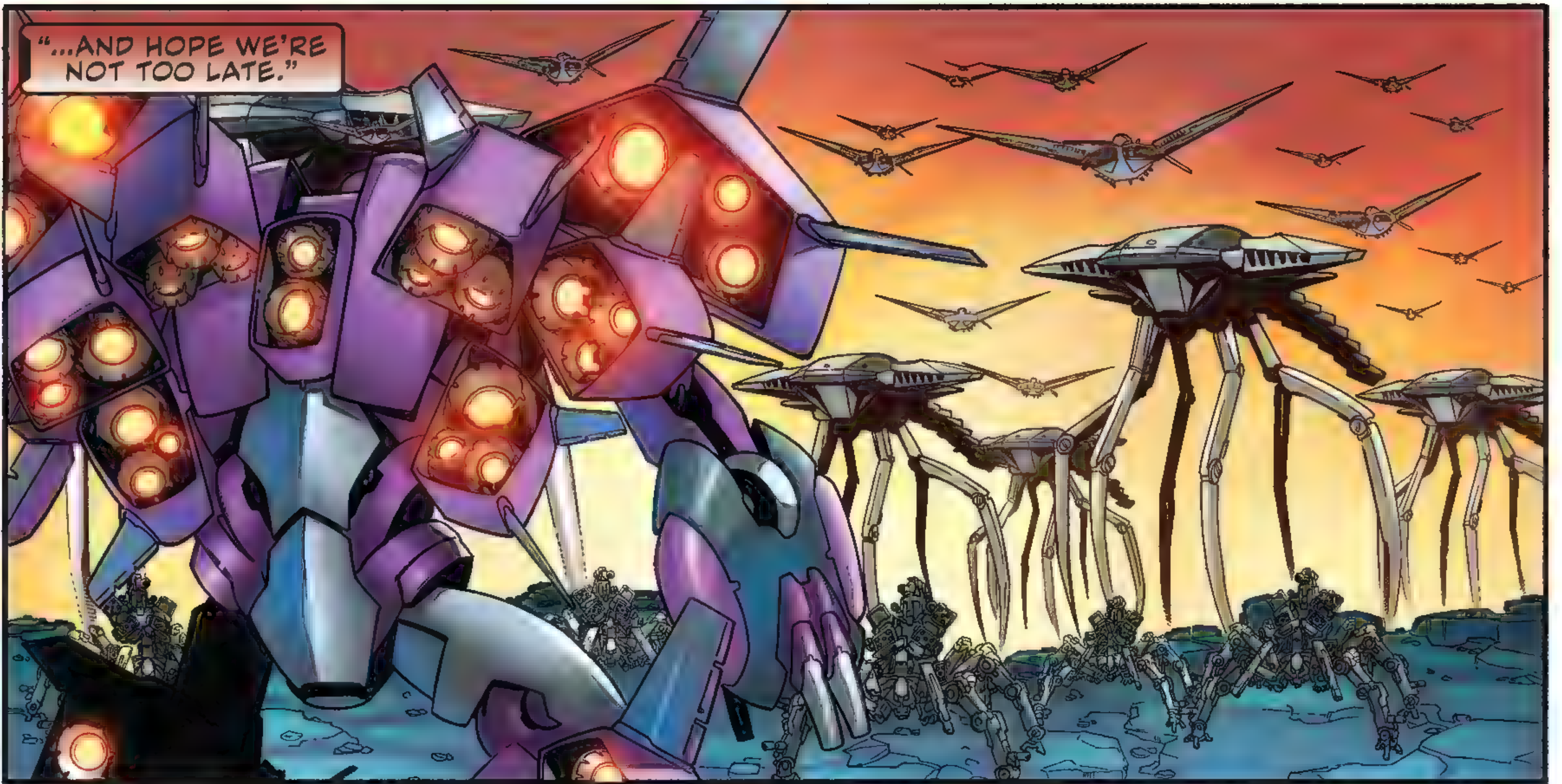
YOU NEVER
FORGET YOUR FIRST
BATTLEFIELD.



BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN IT
DEFINES YOU.









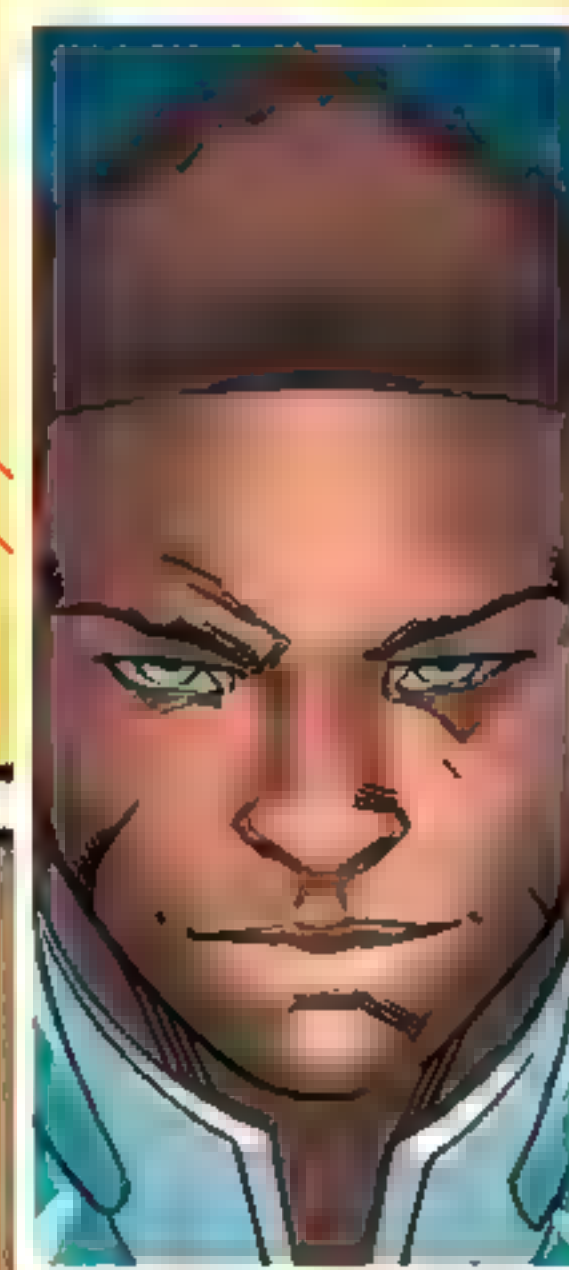
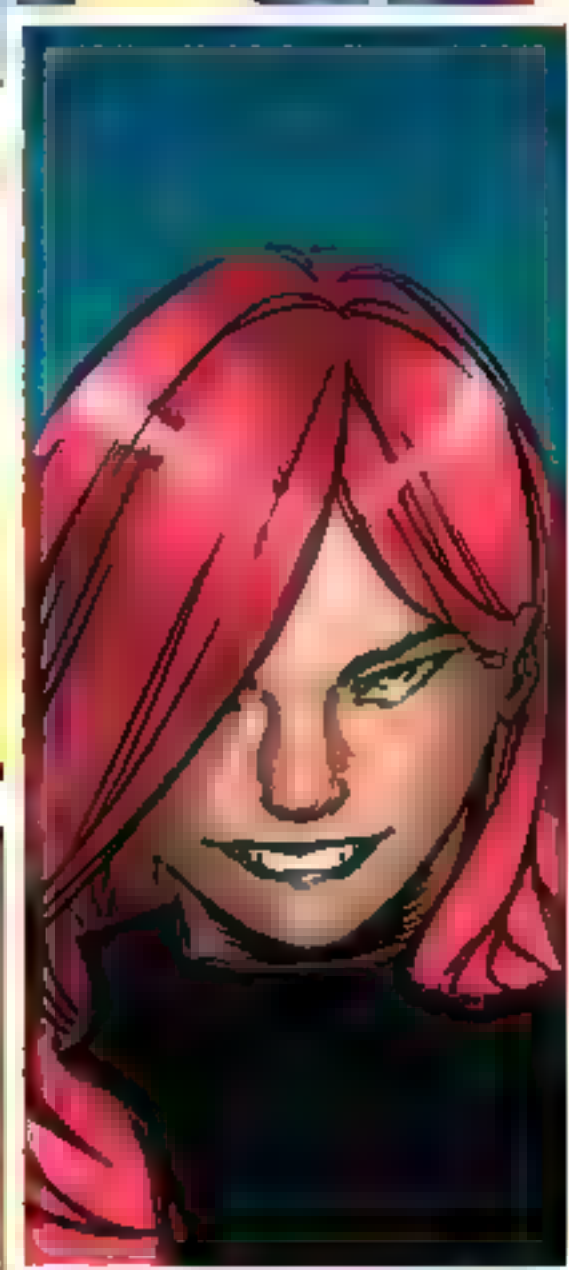


IT BEGAN
WITH DR. RUFUS
WELLER. IT WAS
FOR HIS MISSION
THAT WE WERE
MADE

THREE
SISTERS...

...AND NOW
A BROTHER.

UNITED IN OUR EVOLUTION BEYOND
THE PHYSICAL. OUR ASCENSION
TO THE SPIRITUAL. OUR TRUE
PERFECTION IN THE MINDFRAME.



HIS DREAM WAS SIMPLE: THE
END OF WAR. THE USHERING
IN OF THE WORLD BEYOND
SUCH FOLLY.

BUT ALL HE DID WAS
INSPIRE MORE.

ACROSS THE WORLD, A MAN
NAMED ANNO COMMISSIONED A
DEVICE. A FOUR-IN-ONE MACHINE
OF ENDLESS DESTRUCTION. HE
CALLED THE SHOGUNATE.



con:QUEST

COLLIN KELLY and JACKSON LANZING writers
CARLO BARBERI pencils WALDEN WONG inks
PROTOBUNKER colors TOM NAPOLITANO letters
DAN MORA cover ANDREW MARINO editor

WINGS
FOUR AND
FIVE, THIS
IS SKY
LEADER!

I AM
FLANKING THE
SHOGUNATE. WE
HAVE CONFIRMATION
THAT IT IS NOT
TAKING ORDERS
FROM COMMAND.

ALL UNITS
MAKE FOR IT
DIRECTLY. I'LL
DISTRACT WHILE
YOU NEUTRALIZE
ITS CORE
WEAPONRY!

WE'LL
REESTABLISH
CONTROL AND
TAKE THE FIGHT
TO THE--

THOOOM

THIS FIRE BEGAN
WITH DR. WELLER.

IT BECAME A
BLAZE UNDER
GENJI ANNO.

IT WILL BE
EXTINGUISHED
BY SYCORAX.

THE
MACHINE.

THEY HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT THEY'RE FACING.
NOT AN ENEMY. NOR A
CONQUEROR.

BUT THE
FUTURE
ITSELF.

ALL WINGS,
RETREAT!
THE MACHINE
SEES ALL!
RETREAT!

KRAK BOOM

THEIR
BLINDNESS IS NOT
THEIR FAULT. HUMANS
ARE **LIMITED** IN THEIR
PERCEPTIONS. BUT IT IS
A REALITY AND MUST
BE TREATED AS
SUCH.

ONE
CANNOT CHANGE
THIS FACT: WARS WILL
PERSIST AS LONG AS
WEAPONS EXIST TO
FIGHT THEM. AS LONG
AS **SIDES** EXIST TO
PERPETUATE
THEM.

SO WE
DESTROY ALL SIDES.
UNION AND POLITY ALIKE.
WE MAKE DESOLATE THEIR
WAR ENGINES. WE MAKE
ASH OF THEIR PEOPLES.
WE OBLITERATE EVEN
THEIR **MEMORY--**

NO.

THERE ARE
INNOCENTS
IN THE CITY.
WE HAVE TO
PROTECT
THEM.

**MILITARY
TARGETS**
ONLY. ARE WE
AGREED?

OH,
BROTHER.

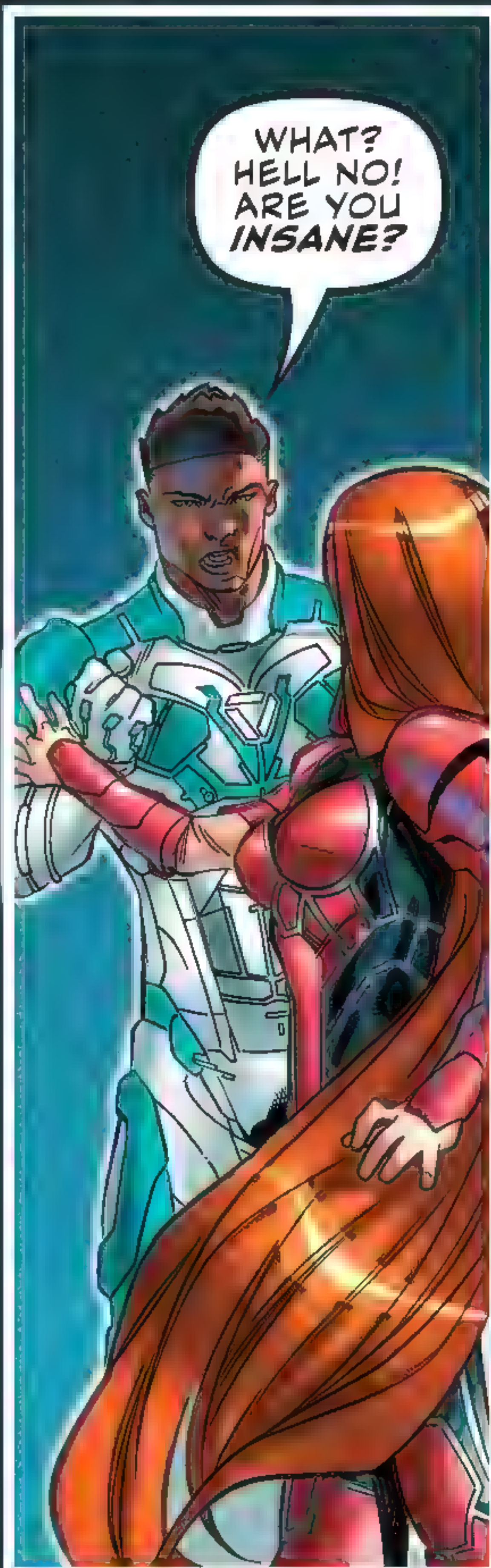
IT'S
FAR TOO
LATE FOR
THAT.

"THE WALL HAS
FALLEN BY OUR
HAND. THE UNION'S
NANOTECHNOLOGY
FLOODS THE CITY.

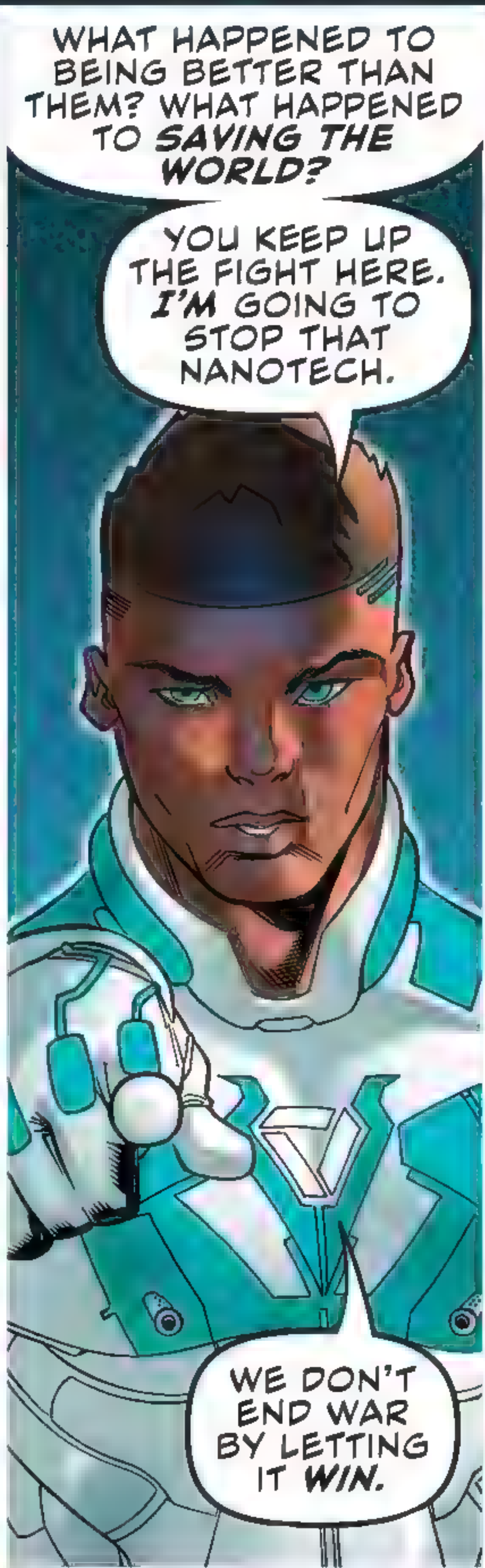
"THE HUMAN'S WILL
BE OBLITERATED.
THE TIDES OF WAR
LOOSED ONE
FINAL TIME.

"THIS IS JUST THE
FINAL SCREAM OF
A DYING ERA.

BE
GLAD.



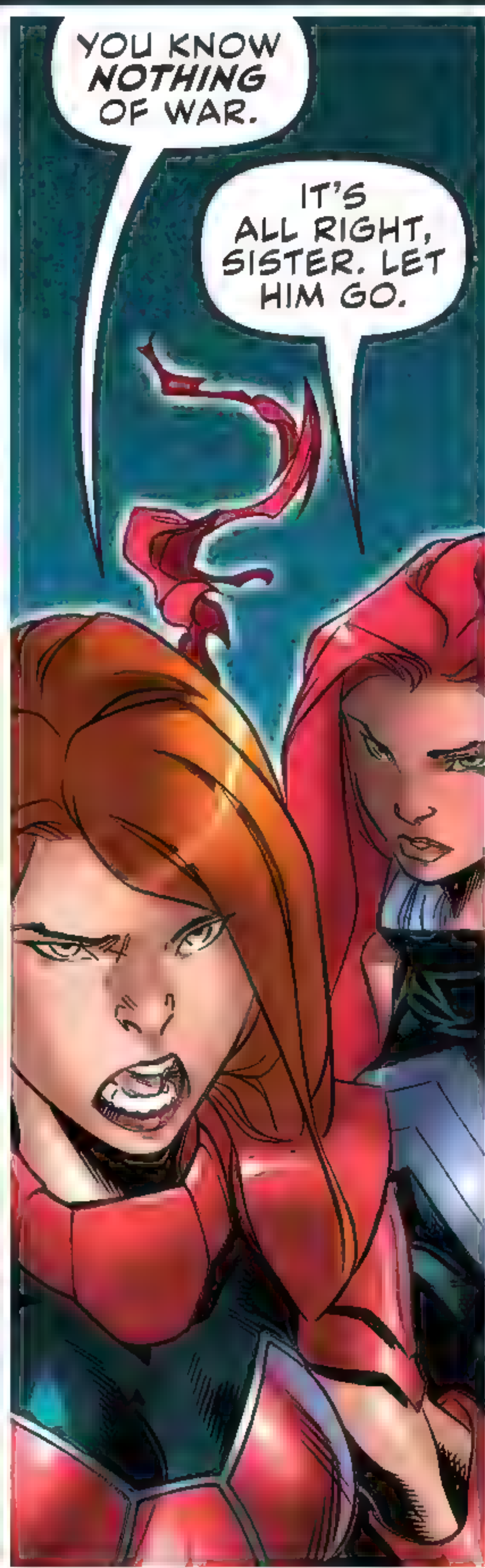
WHAT?
HELL NO!
ARE YOU
INSANE?



WHAT HAPPENED TO
BEING BETTER THAN
THEM? WHAT HAPPENED
TO **SAVING THE
WORLD?**

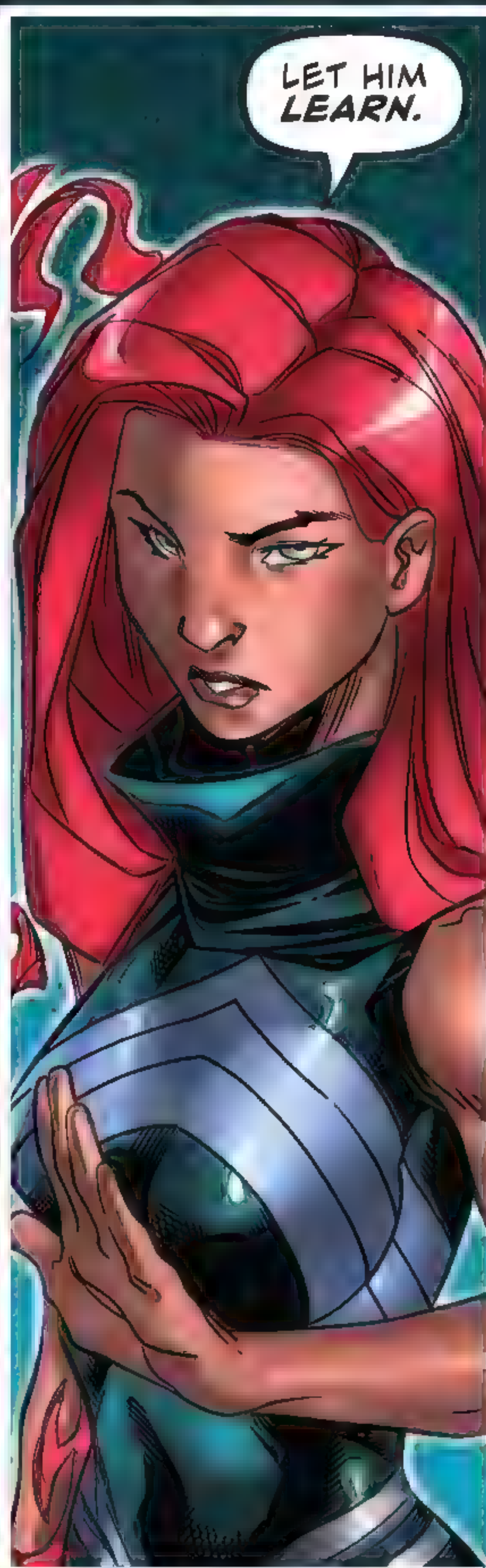
YOU KEEP UP
THE FIGHT HERE.
**I'M GOING TO
STOP THAT
NANOTECH.**

WE DON'T
END WAR
BY LETTING
IT WIN.

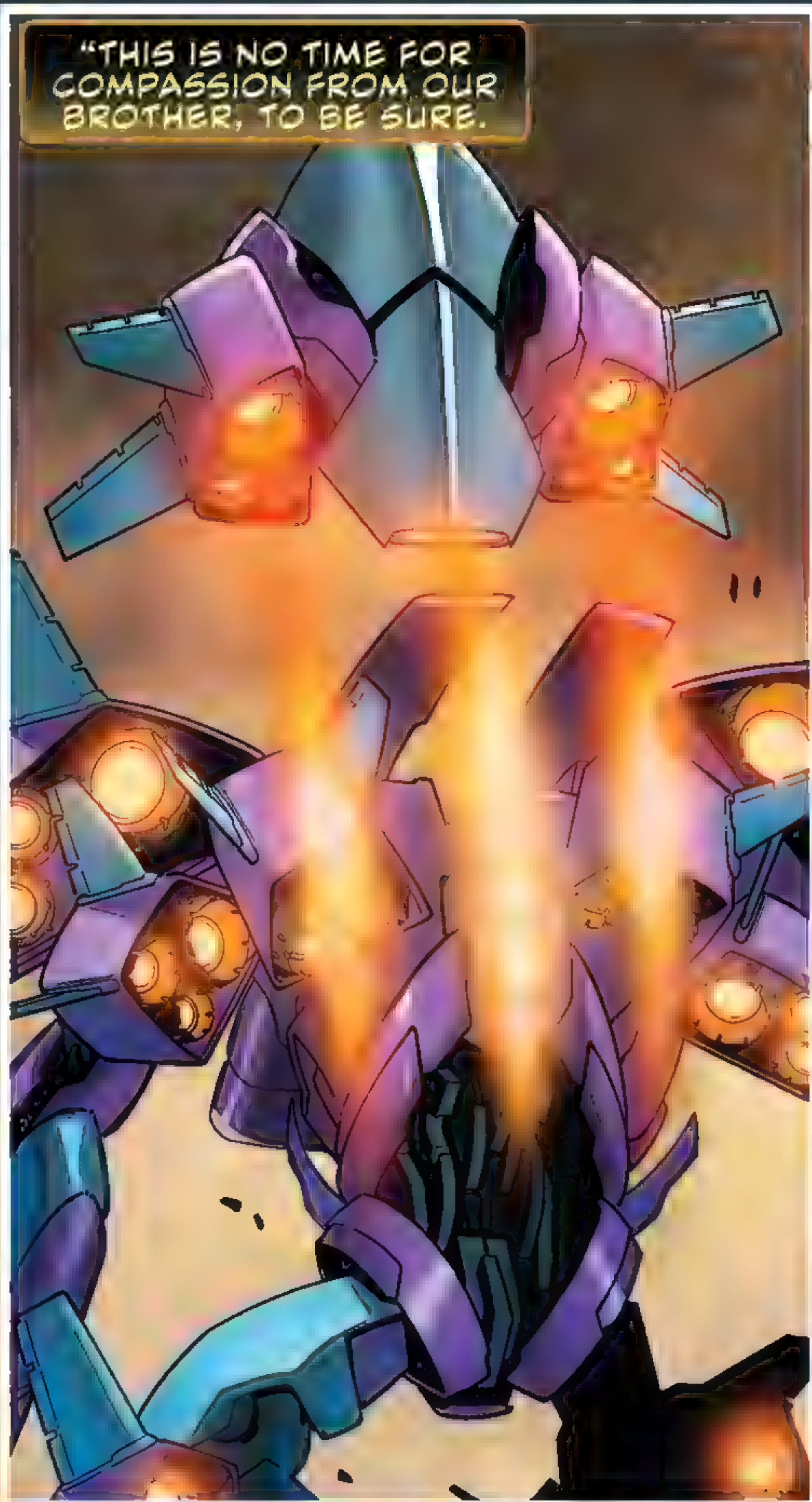


YOU KNOW
NOTHING
OF WAR.

IT'S
ALL RIGHT,
SISTER. LET
HIM GO.



LET HIM
LEARN.



"THIS IS NO TIME FOR
COMPASSION FROM OUR
BROTHER, TO BE SURE.



"THERE IS STILL
HUMAN HEART IN HIM.
BUT WORRY NOT,



"THE BLAZE WILL
SOON CONSUME
THAT AS WELL."

THREE...
TWO...
ONE...



...BREACH!



AND HERE I THOUGHT... YOU FORGOT ABOUT ME...

NOT IN A MILLION YEARS, MIGAS. THIS IS GEN:LOCK TEAM. WE DON'T LEAVE PEOPLE BEHIND.



I'M PART OF THE TEAM?

DOES THAT MEAN I GET A GIANT ROBOT?



NO, BUT IT MEANS YOU HAVE A FAMILY TO LEAN ON.



YOU'RE SURE THIS ISN'T A DREAM?

HAVE YOU BEEN DREAMING ABOUT US, MIGAS? HOW EXCITING.

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE HALF OF IT AND YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO, VALENTINA.

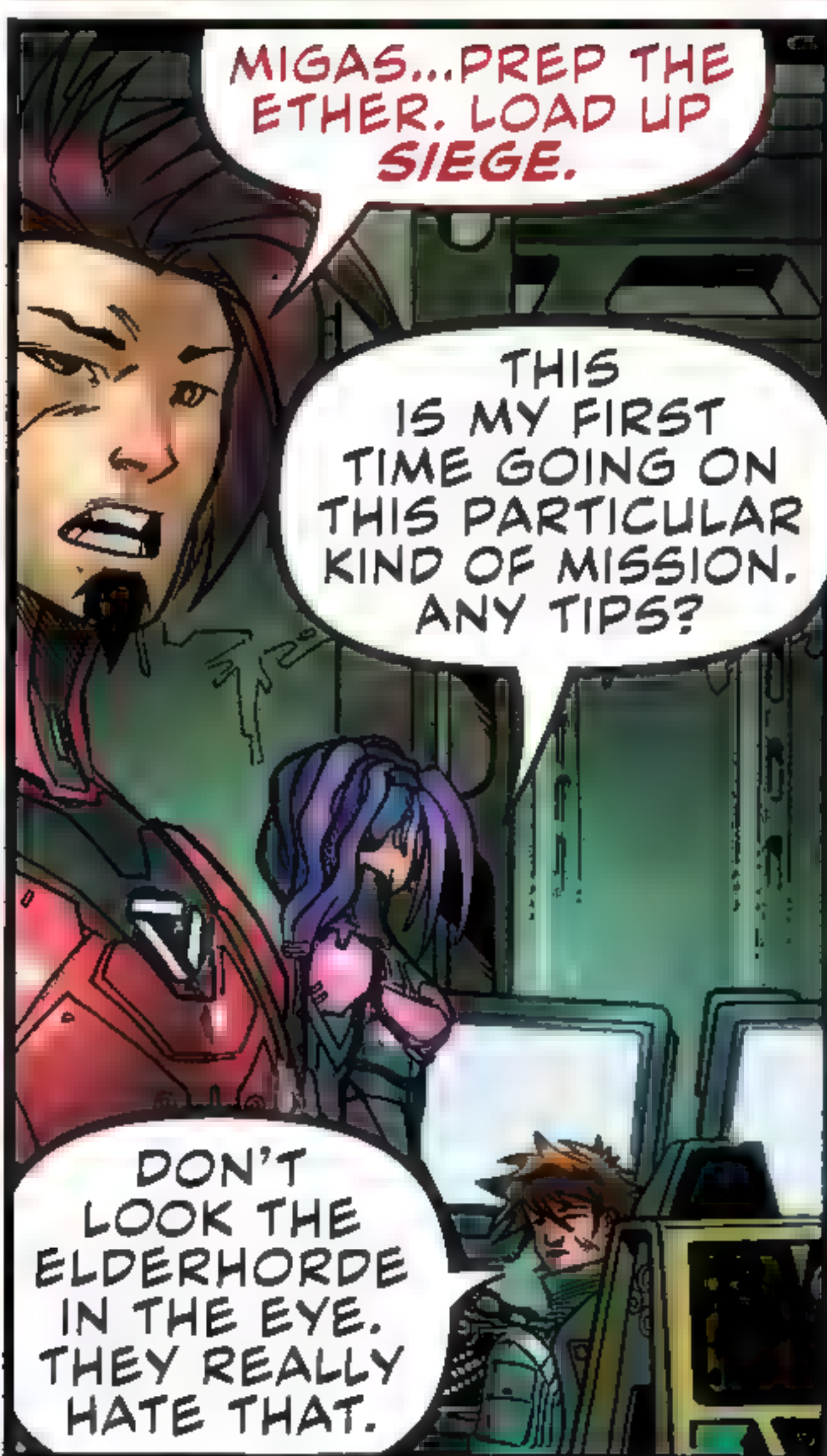
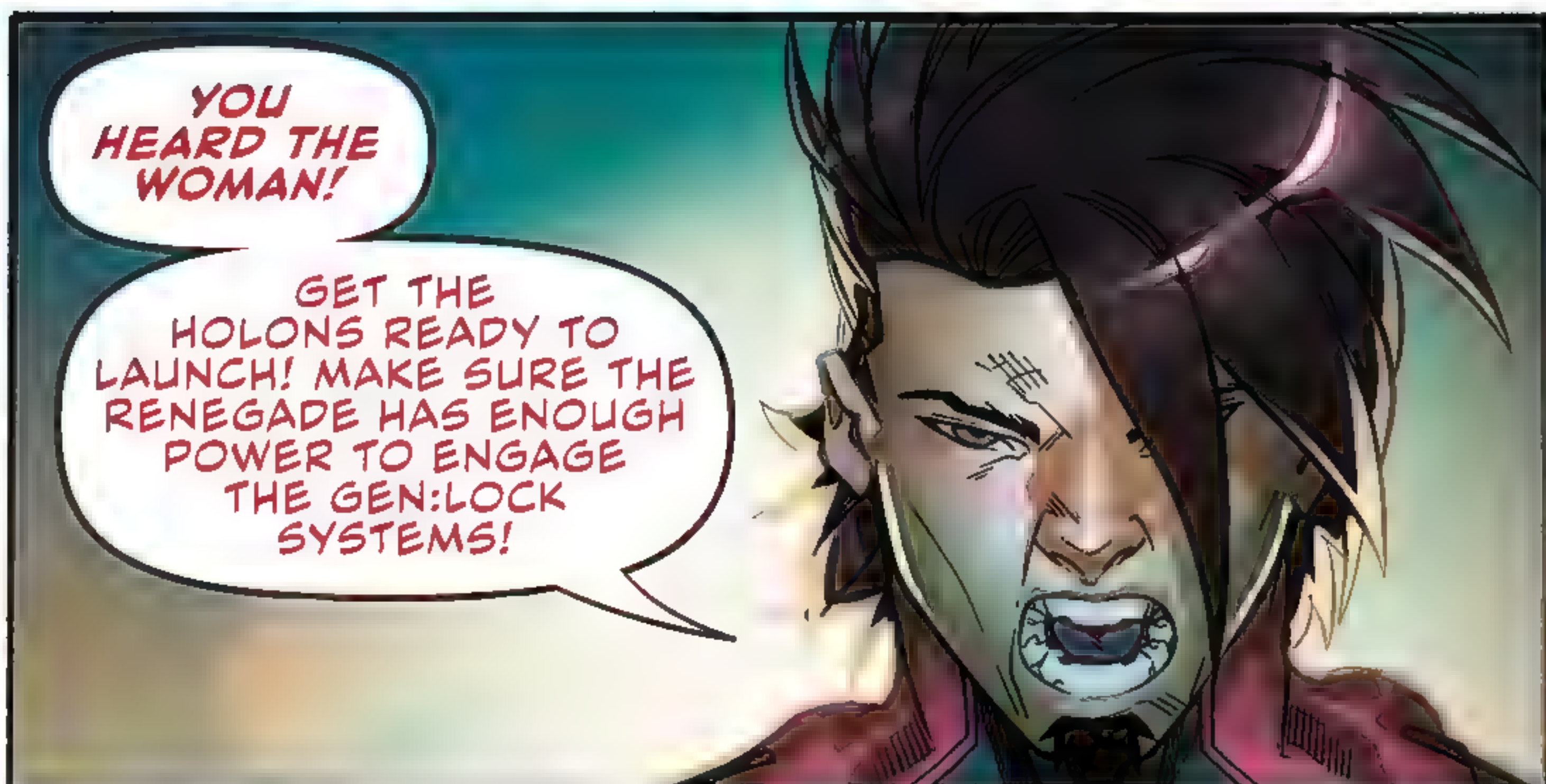
ENOUGH. THE CITY IS FALLING. UNION AND POLITY ALIKE ARE ON FIRE.



WE END THIS NOW OR WE END ENTIRELY.

GONNA GIVE THE LODGINGS HERE TWO AND A HALF STARS, GUYS! NEXT TIME, PRO TIP, MAYBE PUT SOME MINTS ON THE PILLOWS.

OR MAKE THE BEATINGS LESS FREQUENT. WHICHEVER.



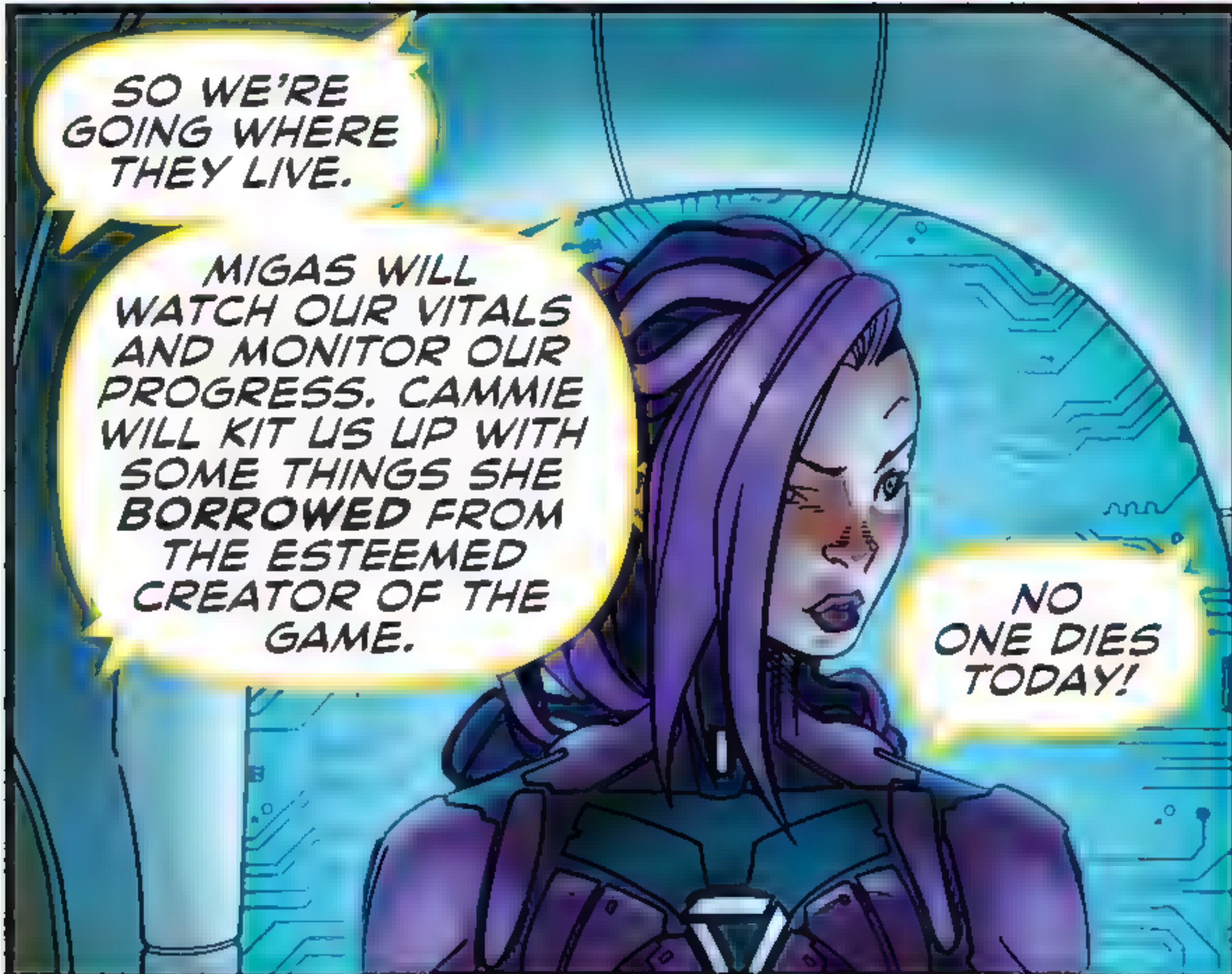


LISTEN UP, TEAM. I'M ONLY GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS PLAN ONCE.

SYCORAX LIVES INSIDE THE BASE CODE FOR THE VIDEO GAME KNOWN AS SIEGE.



THE SHOGUNATE IS THEIR BODY *HERE*, BUT IT ISN'T EQUIPPED WITH A *MINDFRAME*. THAT MEANS THEY MUST BE STREAMING THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS FROM WITHIN THE *ETHER*.



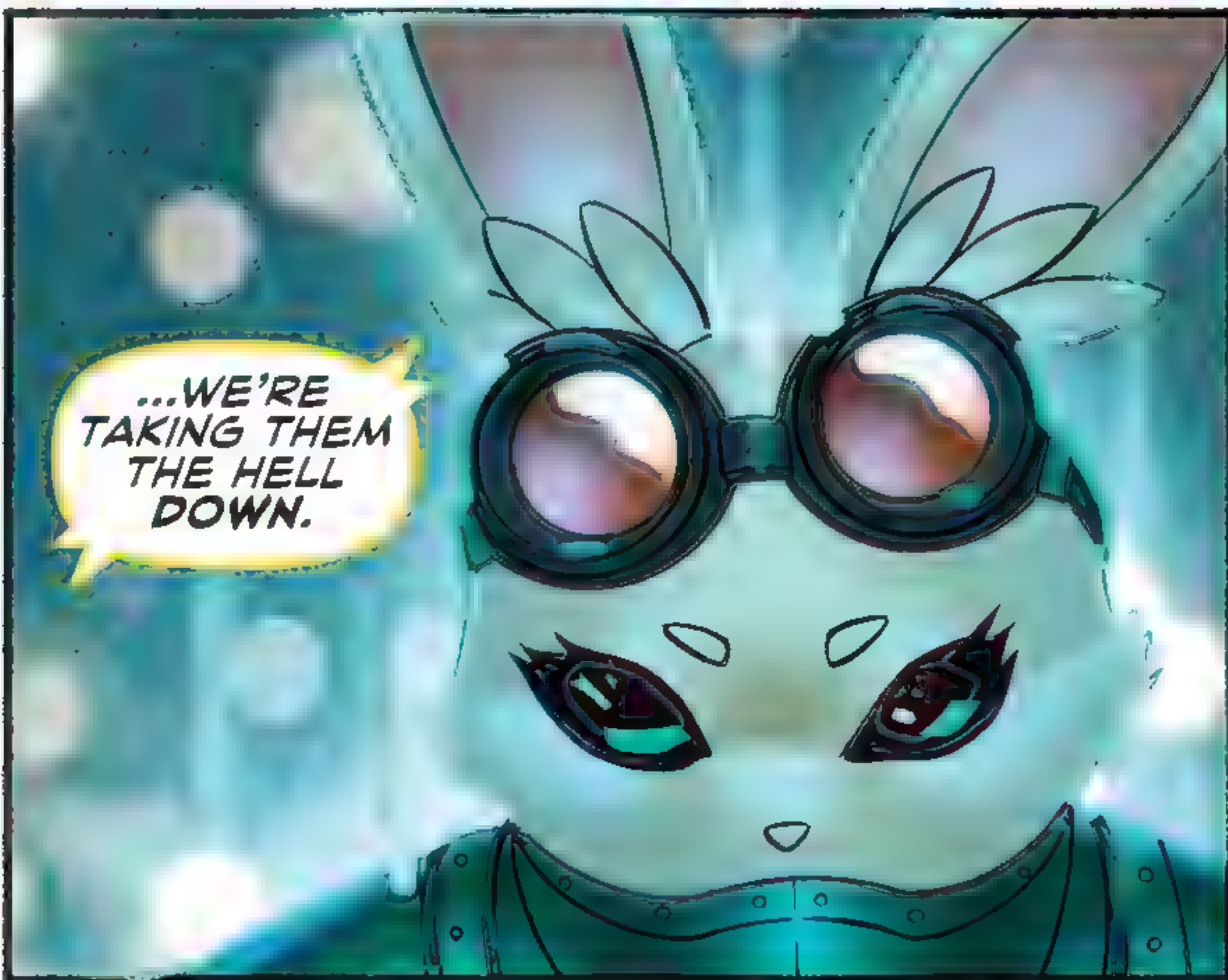
SO WE'RE GOING WHERE THEY LIVE.

MIGAS WILL WATCH OUR VITALS AND MONITOR OUR PROGRESS. CAMMIE WILL KIT US UP WITH SOME THINGS SHE BORROWED FROM THE ESTEEMED CREATOR OF THE GAME.

NO ONE DIES TODAY!



AND BEFORE WE COME BACK TO THE REAL WORLD...



...WE'RE TAKING THEM THE HELL DOWN.



ONCE WE'VE DEFEATED SYCORAX AND RETRIEVED CHASE, MIGAS WILL INITIATE *GEN:LOCK*.

WE WILL THEN DEPLOY IN OUR *HOLONS* AND STOP WHATEVER IS LEFT OF SYCORAX INSIDE THE SHOGUNATE HARDWARE.



WE WILL END THIS BATTLE. NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

DR. WELLER KEPT MANY SECRETS. ONCE AGAIN, THEY THREATEN THE FUTURE HE HOPED TO CREATE.



BUT WE ARE MORE THAN HIS MISTAKES.

WE'RE NOT WHAT HE MADE US.

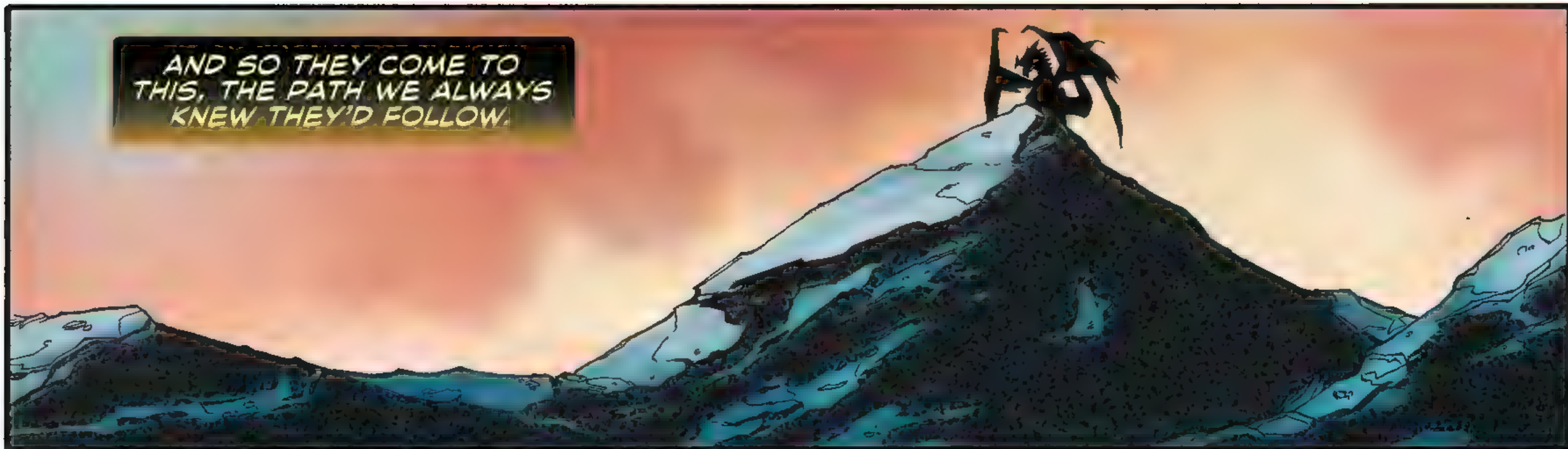
WE'RE NOT WHAT OUR PASTS DICTATE.

WE ARE NOT WHAT WE HAVE DONE.



WE ARE
WHAT WE
DO NEXT.

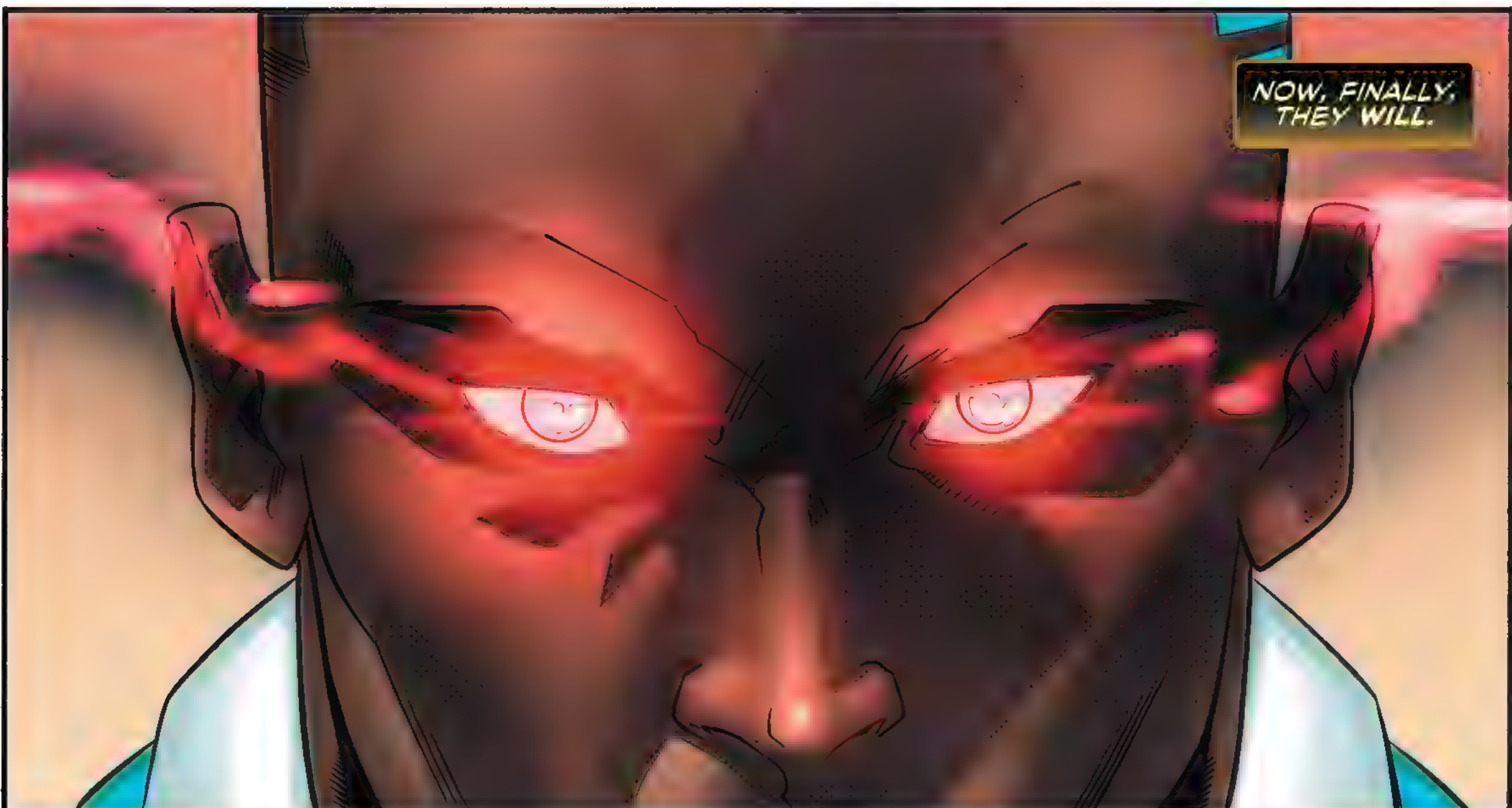
AND SO THEY COME TO
THIS, THE PATH WE ALWAYS
KNEW THEY'D FOLLOW.



WELLER'S MISTAKES LIVING LIES
OF THEIR OWN CREATION, THINKING
THEMSELVES HEROES. THEY DO NOT
REALIZE HOW SMALL THEY ARE. HOW
INEVITABLE WE HAVE BECOME.

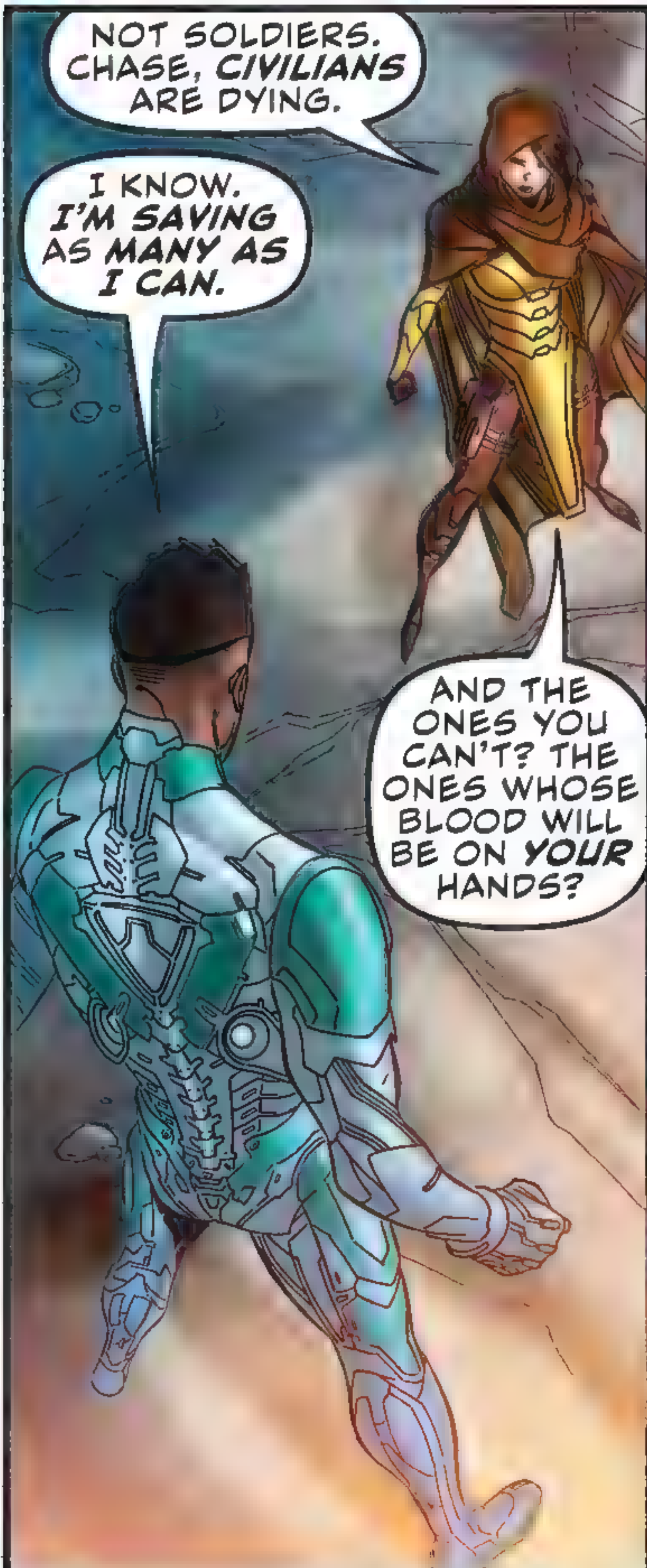


BUT THEY
WILL.



NOW, FINALLY,
THEY WILL.







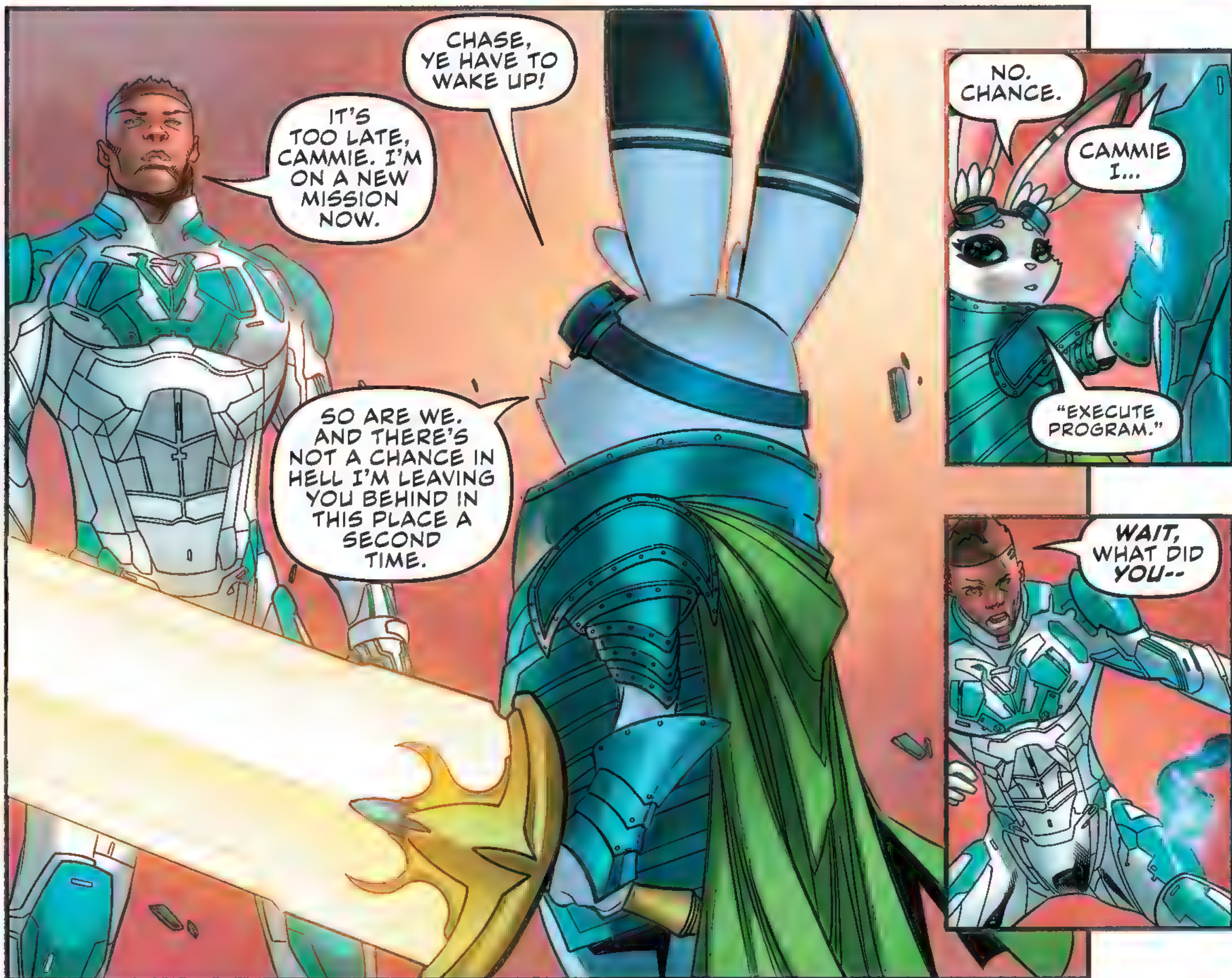




YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LIMITING YOU ARE TO CHASE! YOUR FRIENDSHIP IS A CAGE. YOU LOCK HIM AWAY FROM WHO HE IS MEANT TO BE!

TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT WHO THEY'RE MEANT TO BE...

...FRIENDSHIP IS NEVER A CAGE.



CHASE, YE HAVE TO WAKE UP!

IT'S TOO LATE, CAMMIE. I'M ON A NEW MISSION NOW.

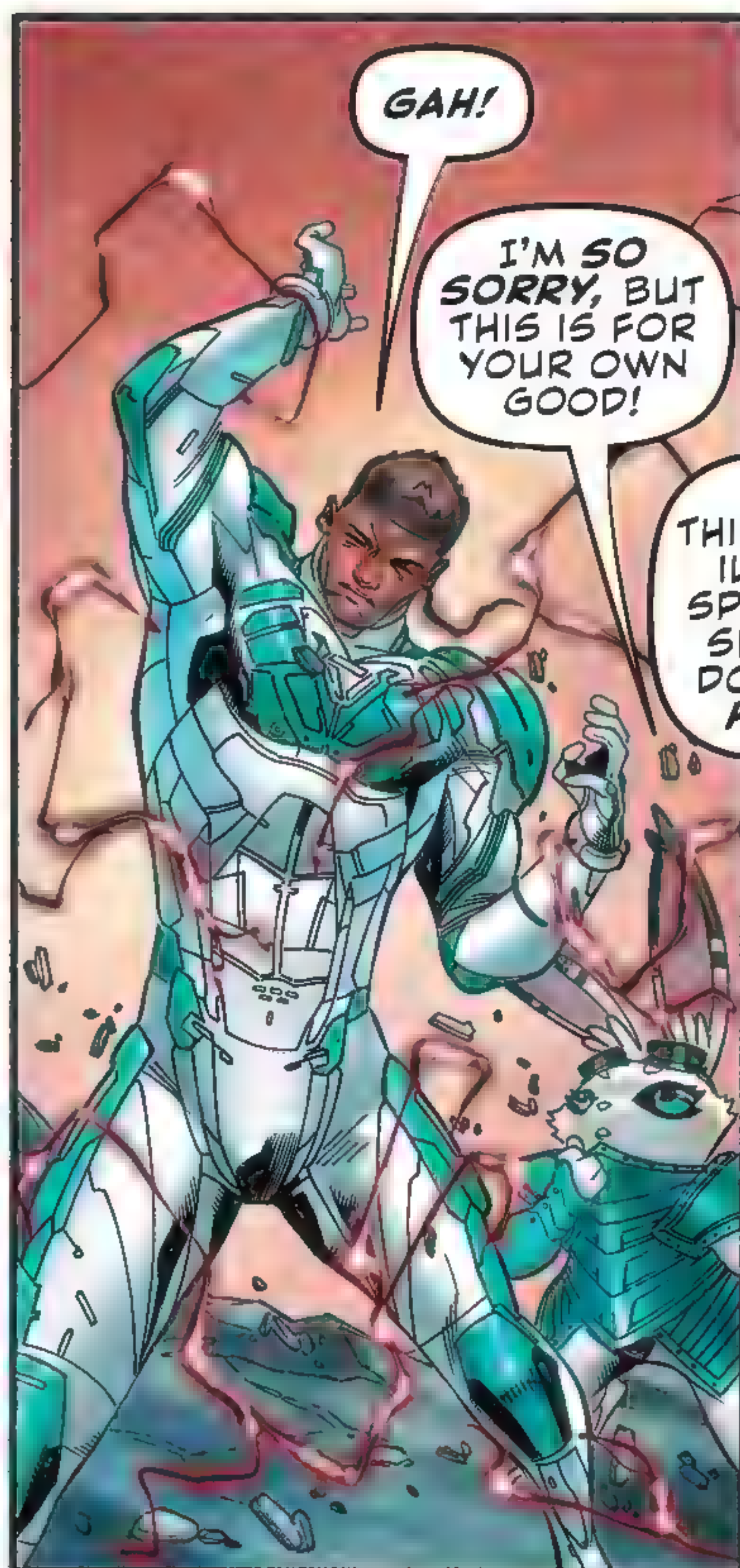
SO ARE WE. AND THERE'S NOT A CHANCE IN HELL I'M LEAVING YOU BEHIND IN THIS PLACE A SECOND TIME.

NO. CHANCE.

CAMMIE I...

"EXECUTE PROGRAM."

WAIT, WHAT DID YOU--



GAH!

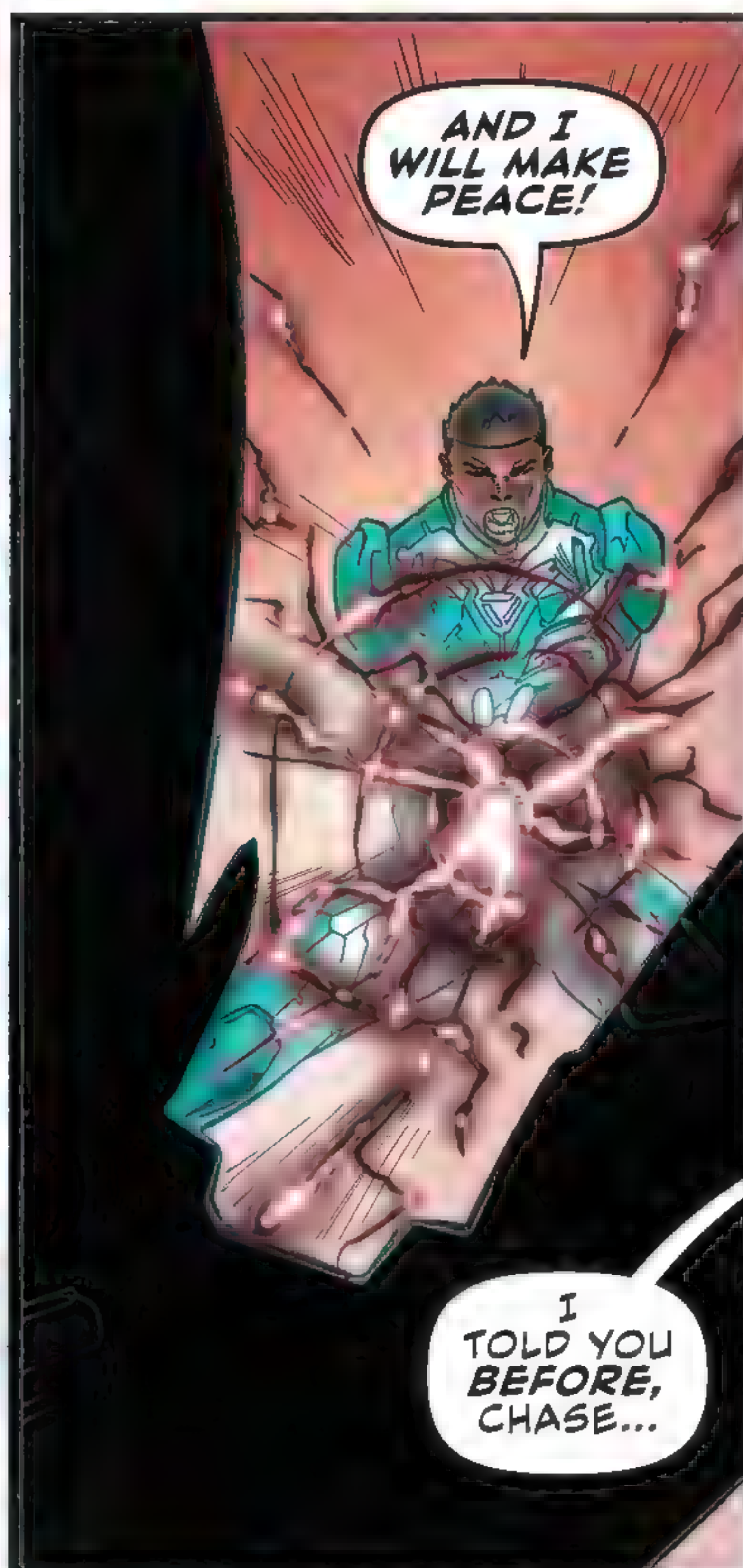
I'M SO SORRY, BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

YOU THINK SOME ILLEGAL SPELL CAN SHUT ME DOWN? IN HERE?



I'M NOT LIKE YOU ANYMORE, CAMMIE! I'M PURE WILLPOWER. I'M A FORCE.

I AM SYCORAX.



AND I WILL MAKE PEACE!

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, CHASE...



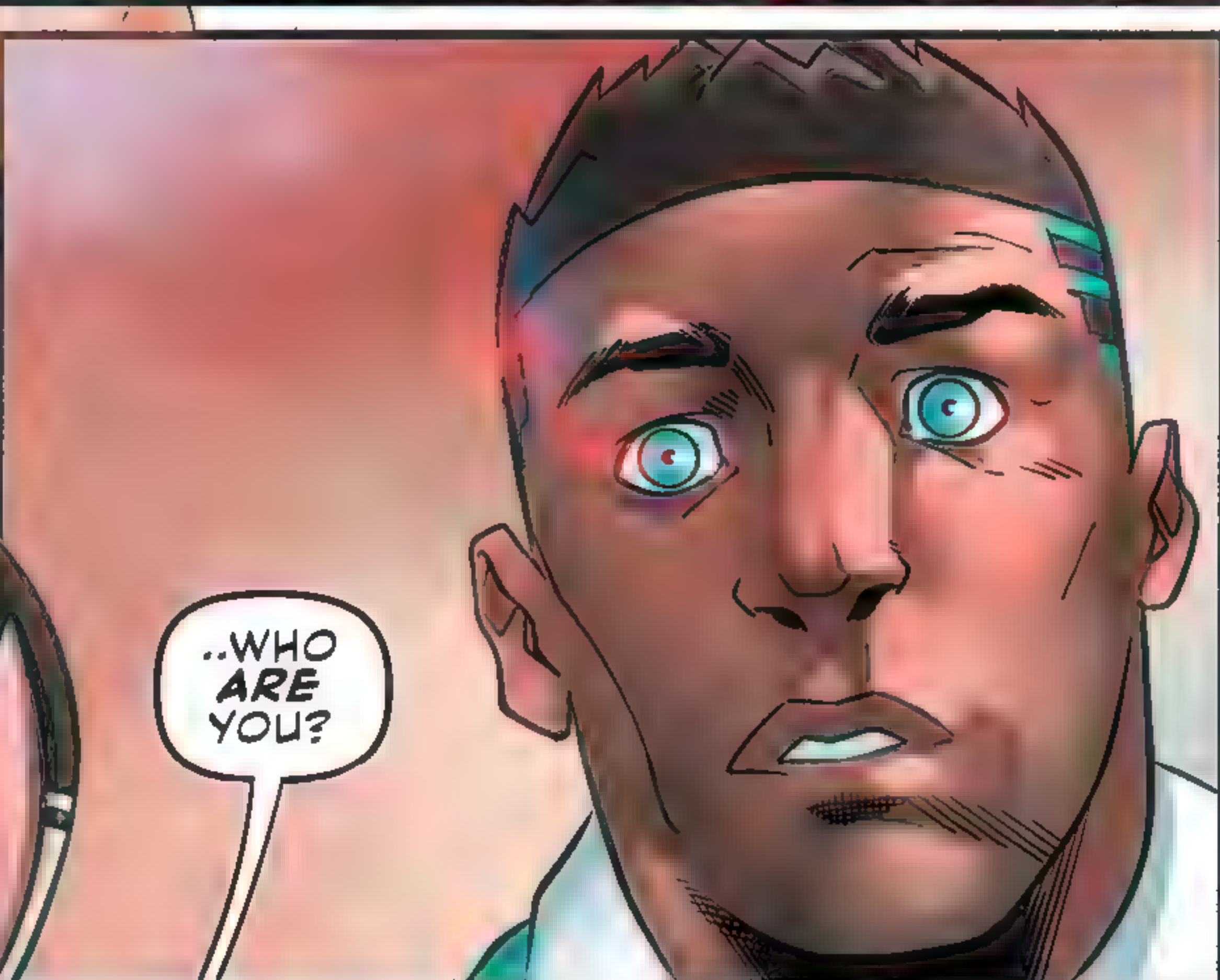
YAZ!

NO ONE DIES TODAY!

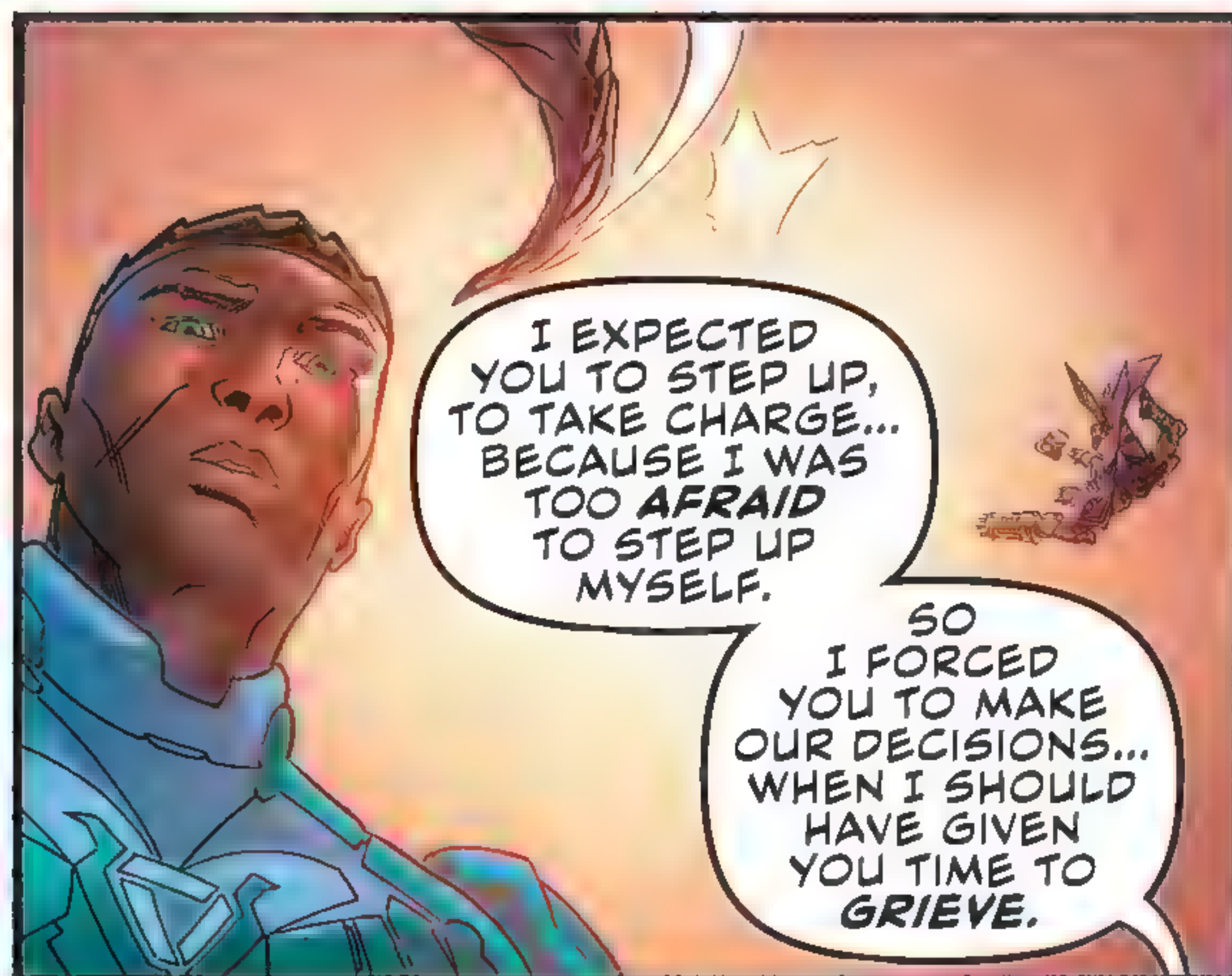
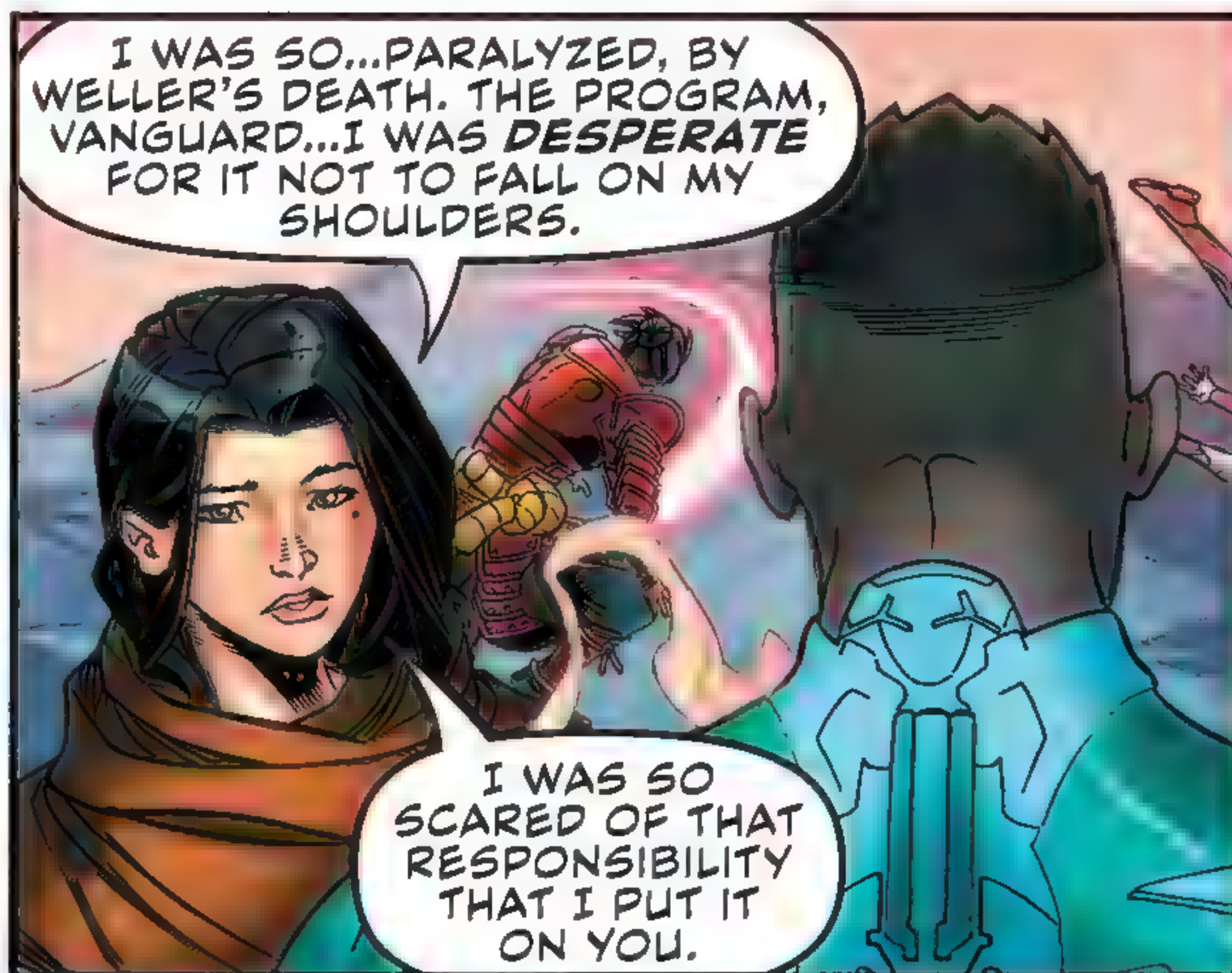


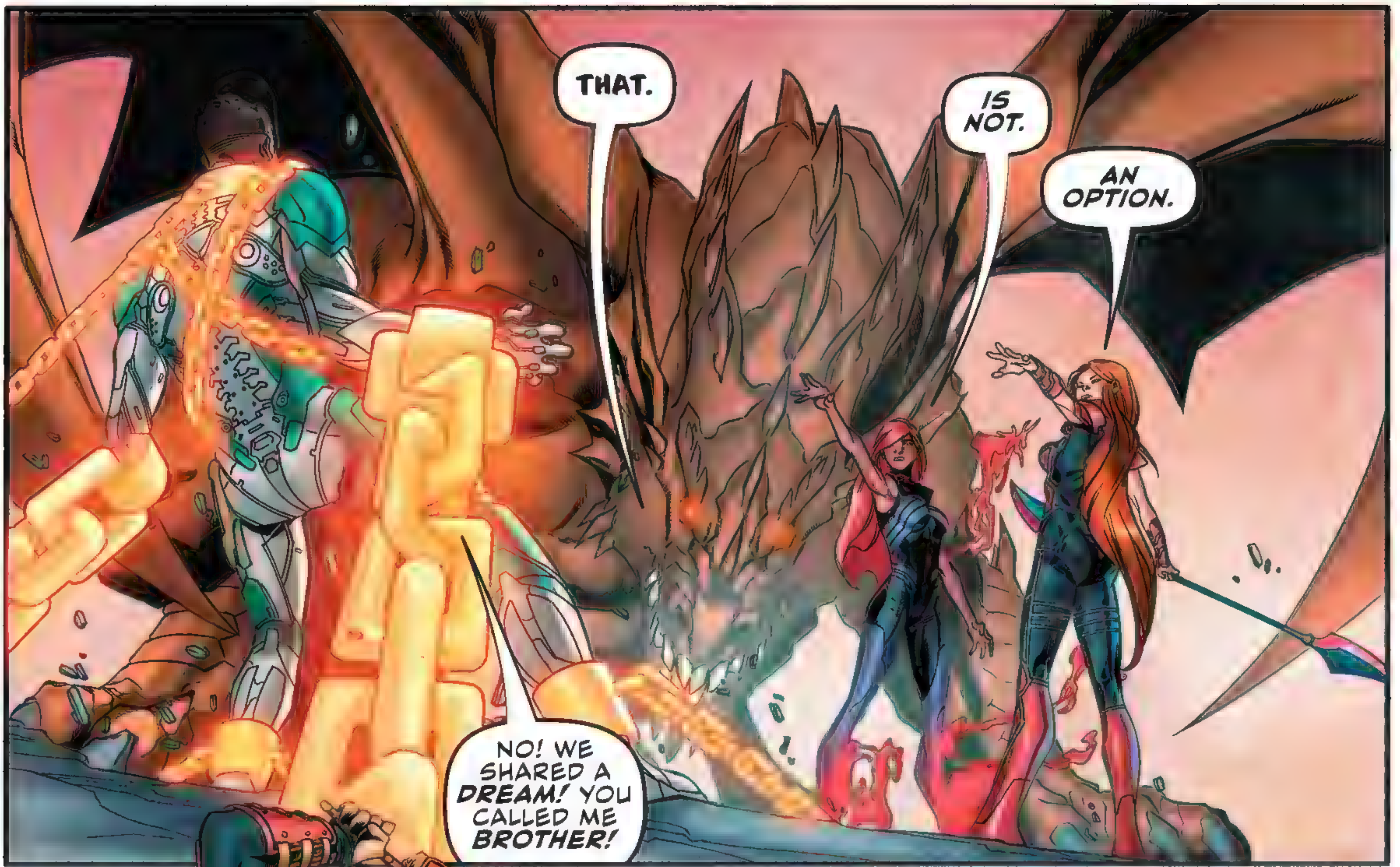
YOU THINK YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR PEACE? OSAKA IS BURNING, AND YOU JUST TRIED TO KILL YOUR FRIEND.

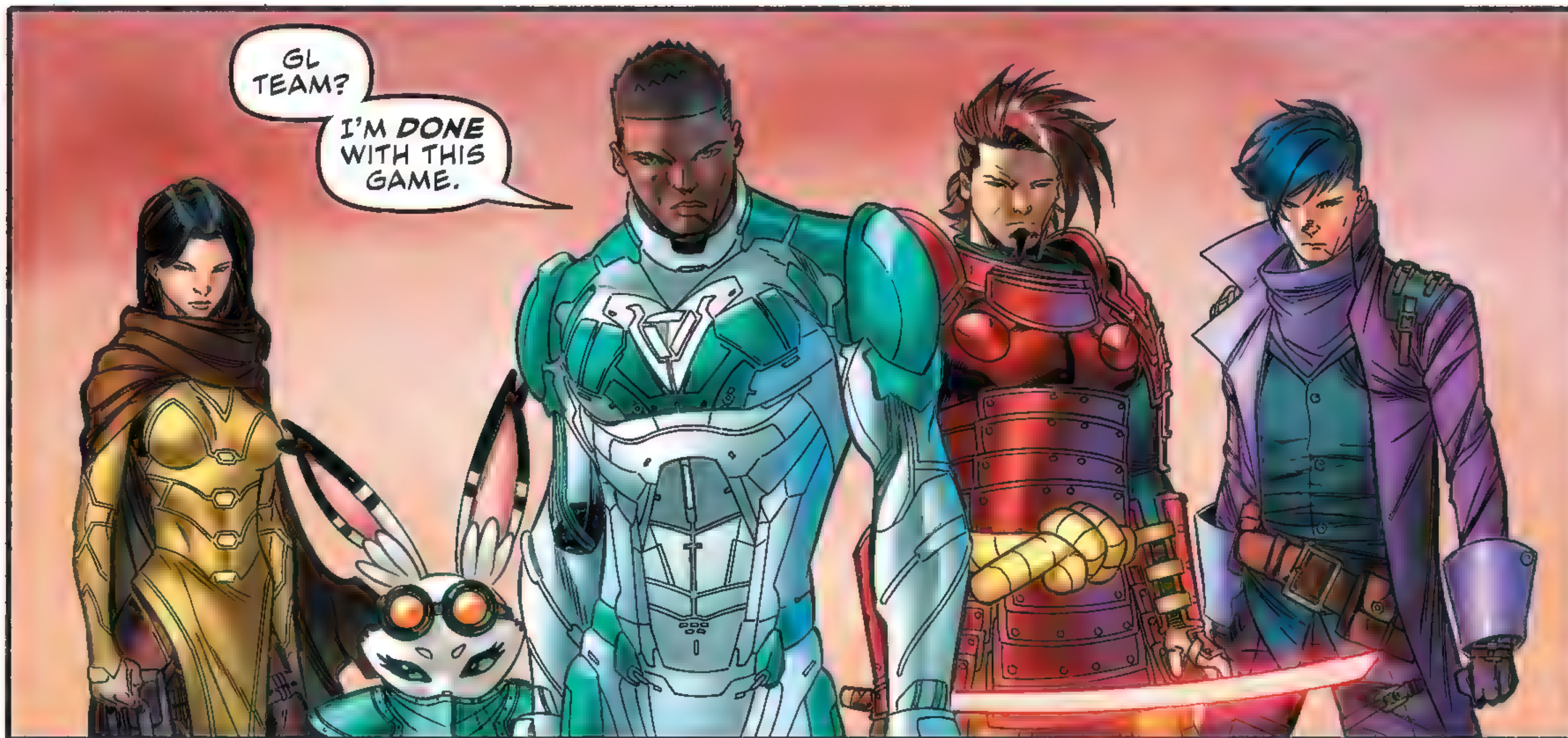
OUR CHASE WOULD NEVER. COULD NEVER. SO THEN, SIMPLE QUESTION...



..WHO ARE YOU?







GL
TEAM?

I'M **DONE**
WITH THIS
GAME.



YOU'RE A COWARD, JULIAN
CHASE. WE'VE OFFERED YOU
THE WORLD, THE FUTURE,
AND YOU'VE SETTLED
FOR...MEAT.

I HAVEN'T
SETTLED FOR
ANYTHING.

I'M
FREE.



OSAKA
IS OURS.

THE
WORLD IS
NEXT.

YEAH?

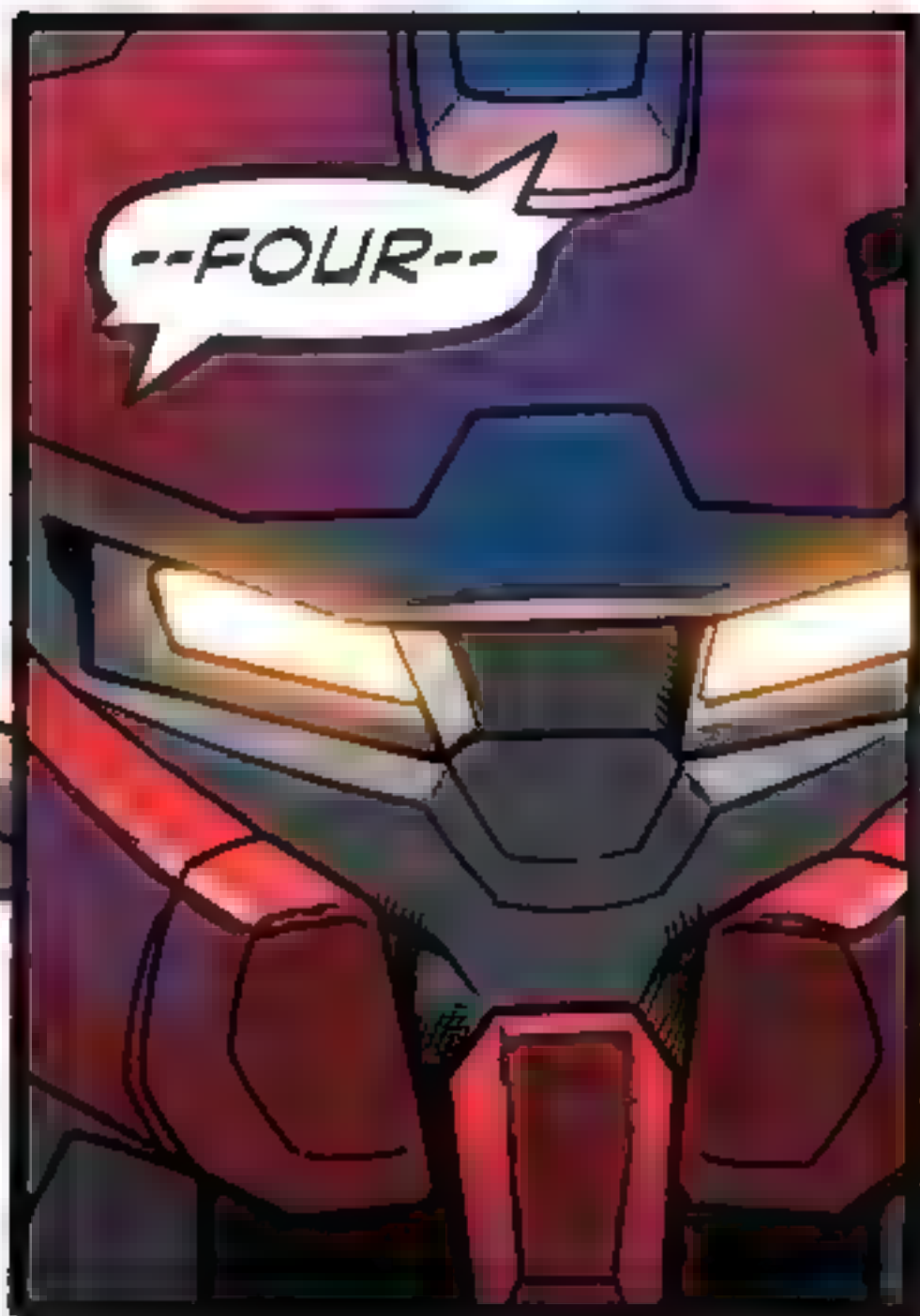
MIGAS,
NOW!

LOVE
TO HEAR
IT!



WELL,
THE WORLD HAS
PROTECTORS.

AND
WE'LL
SEE YOU
THERE.







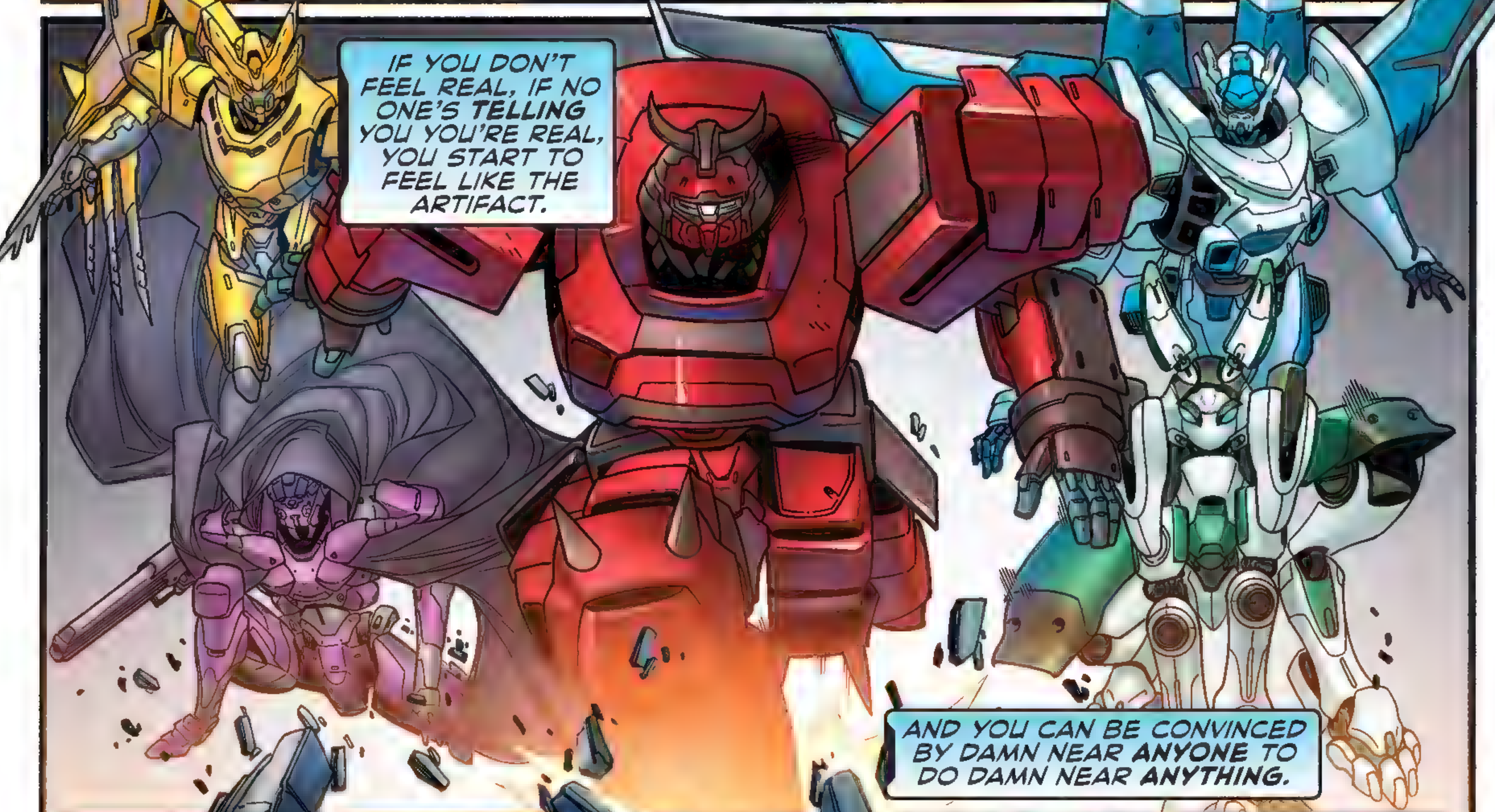


MY POPS USED TO
MAKE ME MIXTAPES.

AFTER HE WAS GONE,
I'D LISTEN TO THEM
OVER AND OVER AGAIN
UNTIL THE SONGS HE'D
LEFT ME WERE NOTHING
BUT ARTIFACTS.

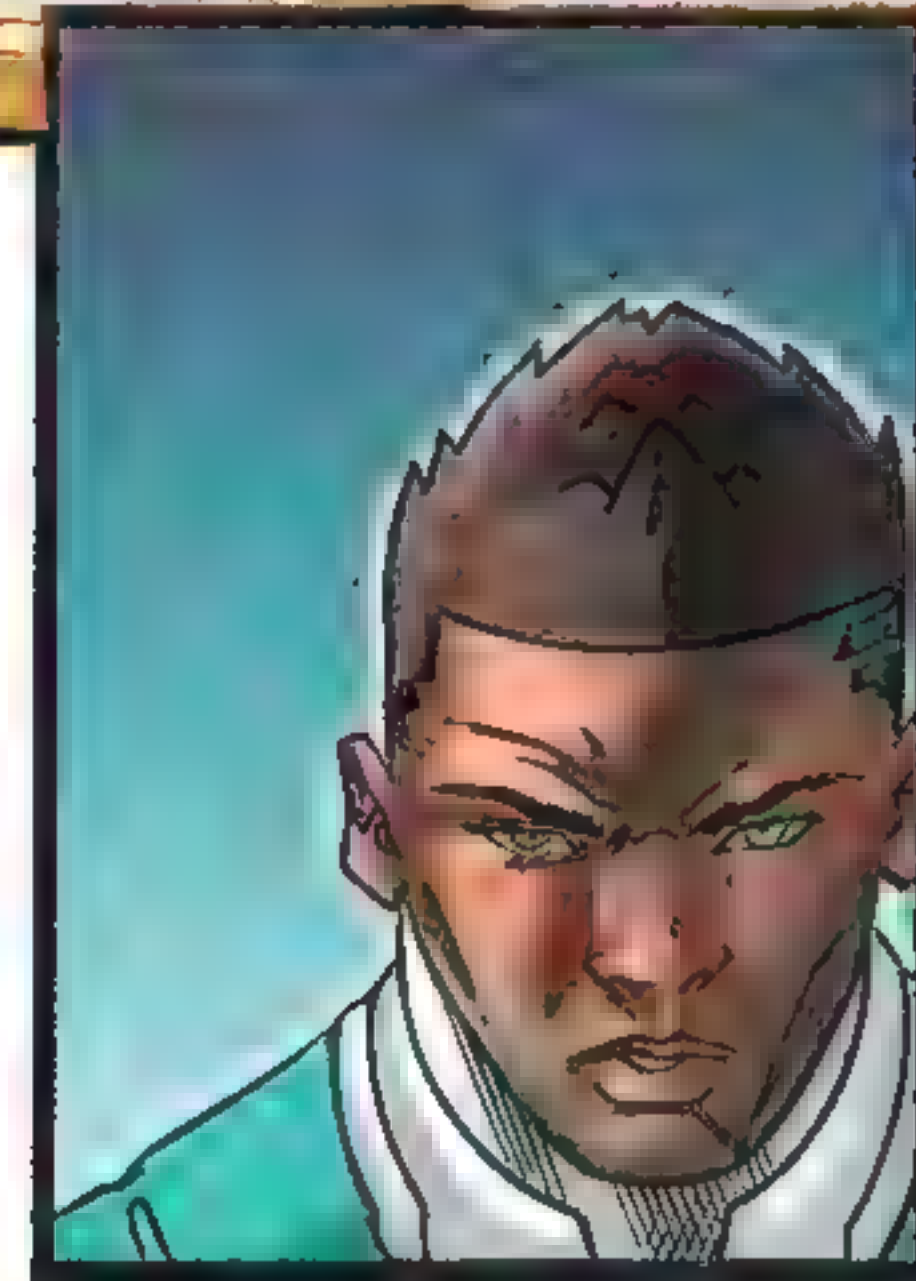
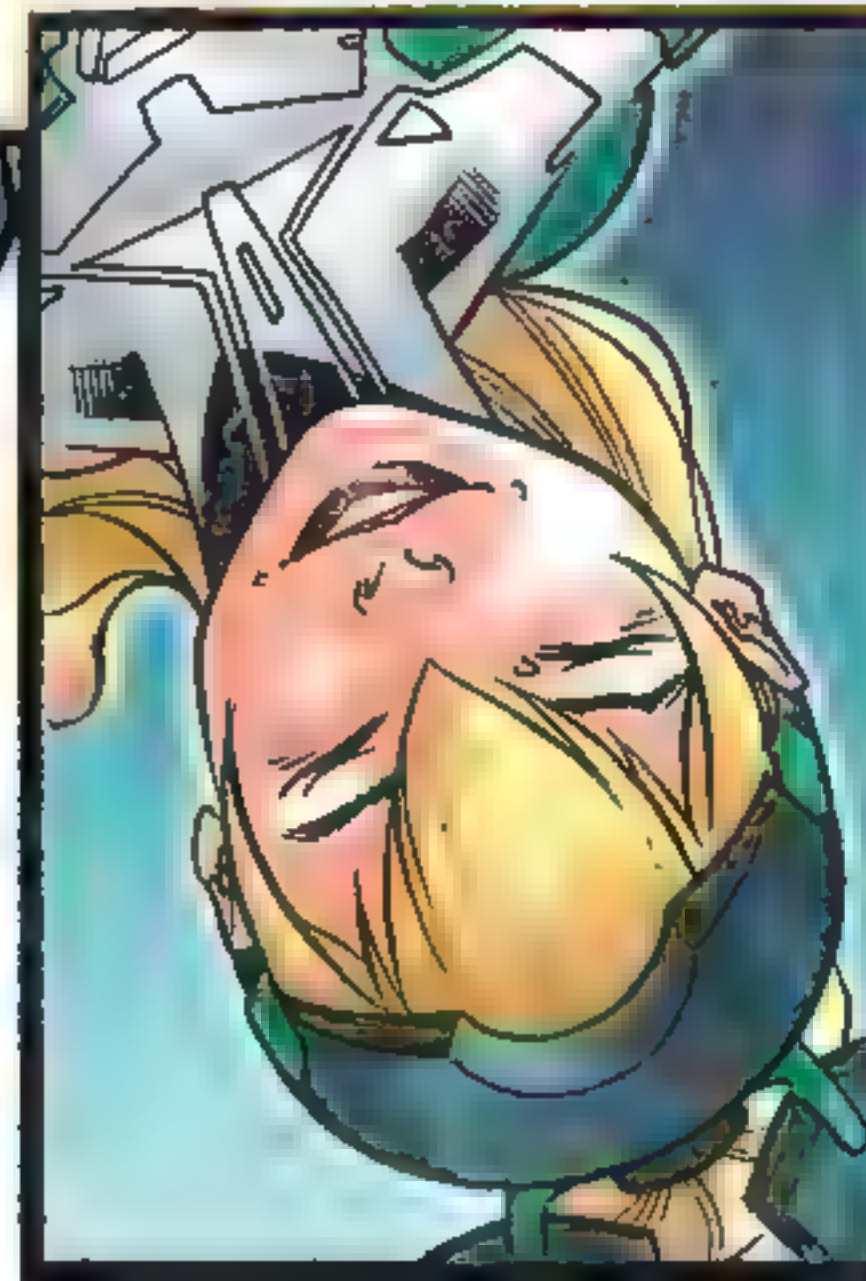
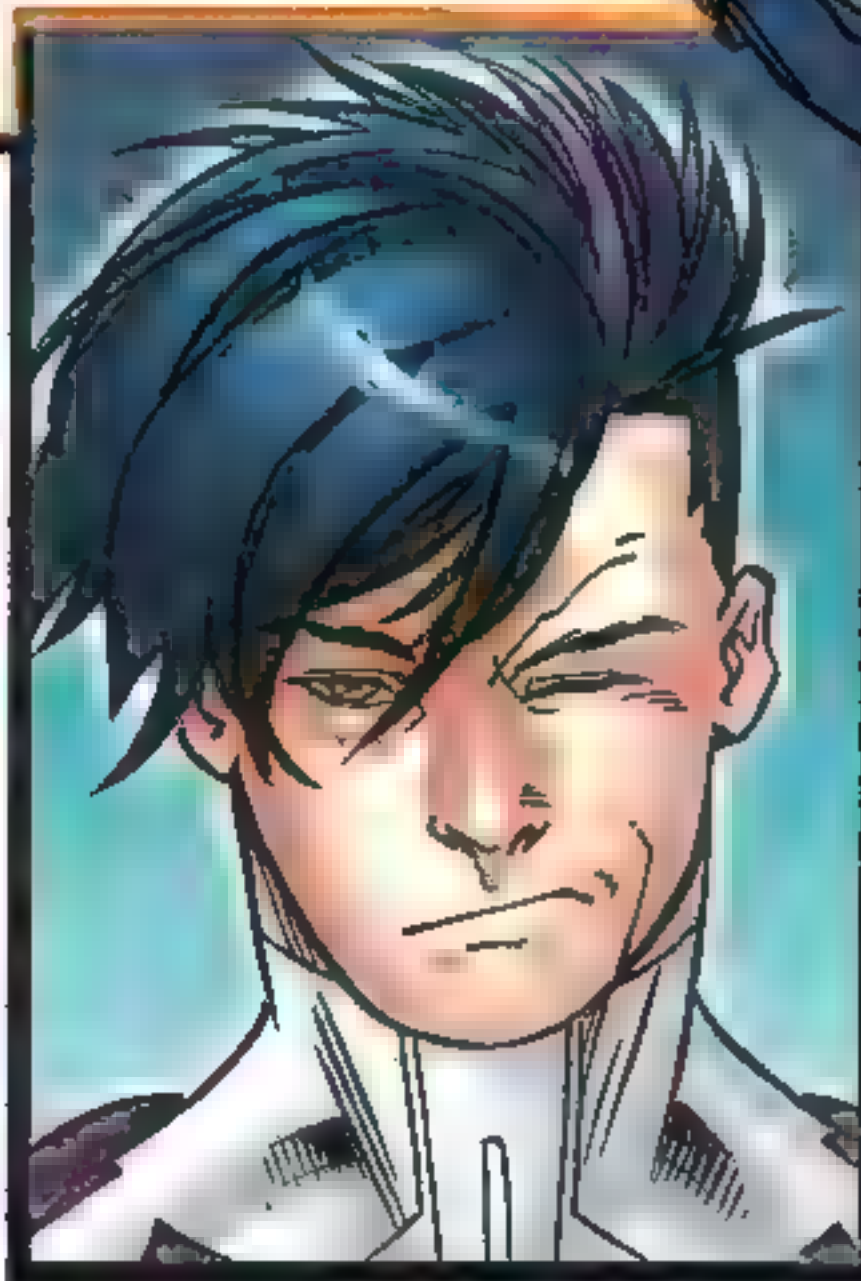
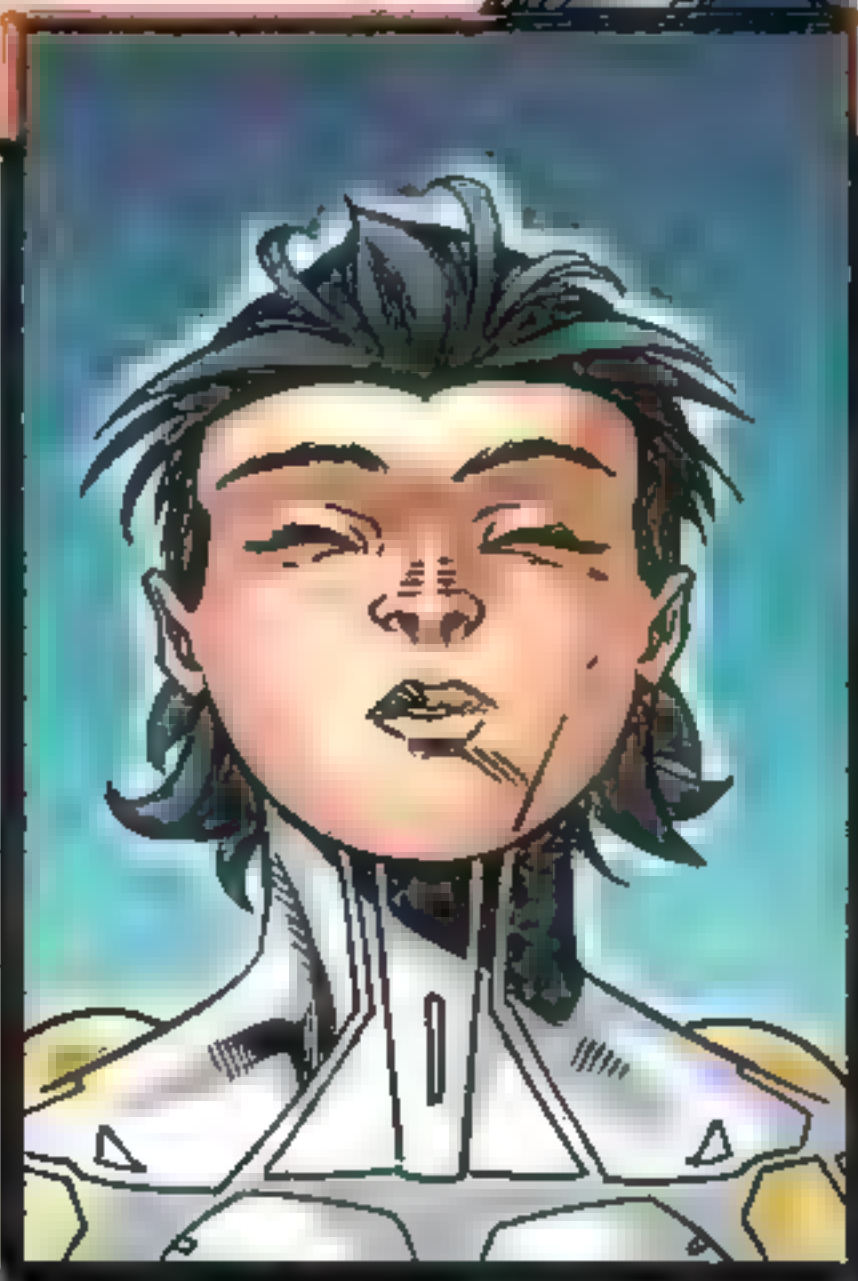
I'D SIT ALONE IN MY ROOM
AND LISTEN, HOPING I COULD
HEAR HIM IN THE STATIC.

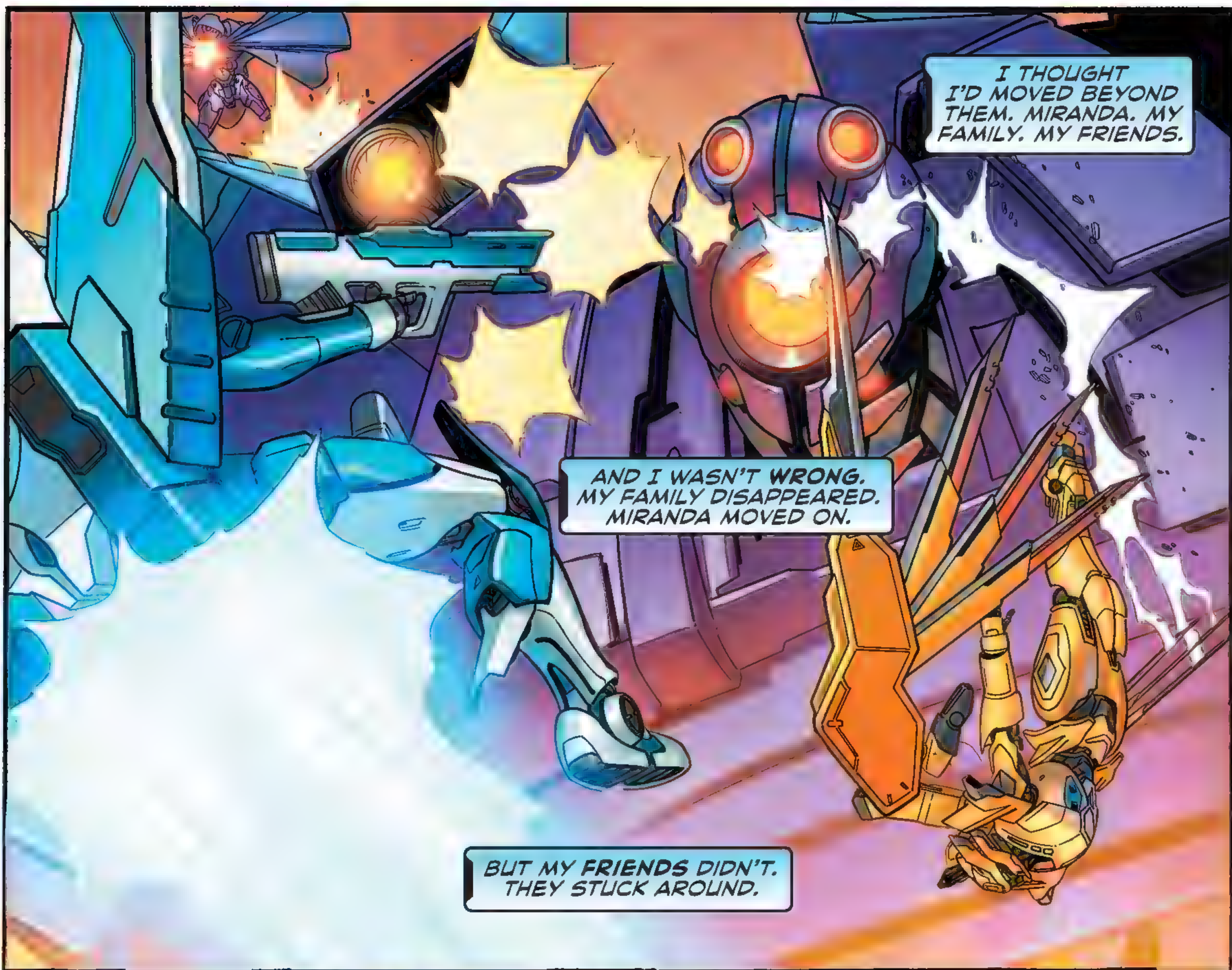
IT'S A DANGEROUS
THING. BEING ALONE.



IF YOU DON'T
FEEL REAL, IF NO
ONE'S TELLING
YOU YOU'RE REAL,
YOU START TO
FEEL LIKE THE
ARTIFACT.

AND YOU CAN BE CONVINCED
BY DAMN NEAR ANYONE TO
DO DAMN NEAR ANYTHING.





I THOUGHT
I'D MOVED BEYOND
THEM. MIRANDA. MY
FAMILY. MY FRIENDS.

AND I WASN'T WRONG.
MY FAMILY DISAPPEARED.
MIRANDA MOVED ON.

BUT MY FRIENDS DIDN'T.
THEY STUCK AROUND.



THEY SAW ME.

THEY FOUND ME.

THEY FORGAVE ME.

NOW IT'S TIME
I MADE THAT
WORTH THEIR--

NO.

YOUR
TIME IS
OVER.

WE WILL
BURY YOU
WITH NO
REGRET.

THOO

THEY'RE
TOO FAST!
ENGAGING
ESCAPE
MANEUVERS--

ACH!

BZZ

LET DOWN
YOUR BURDEN,
BROTHERS AND
SISTERS.

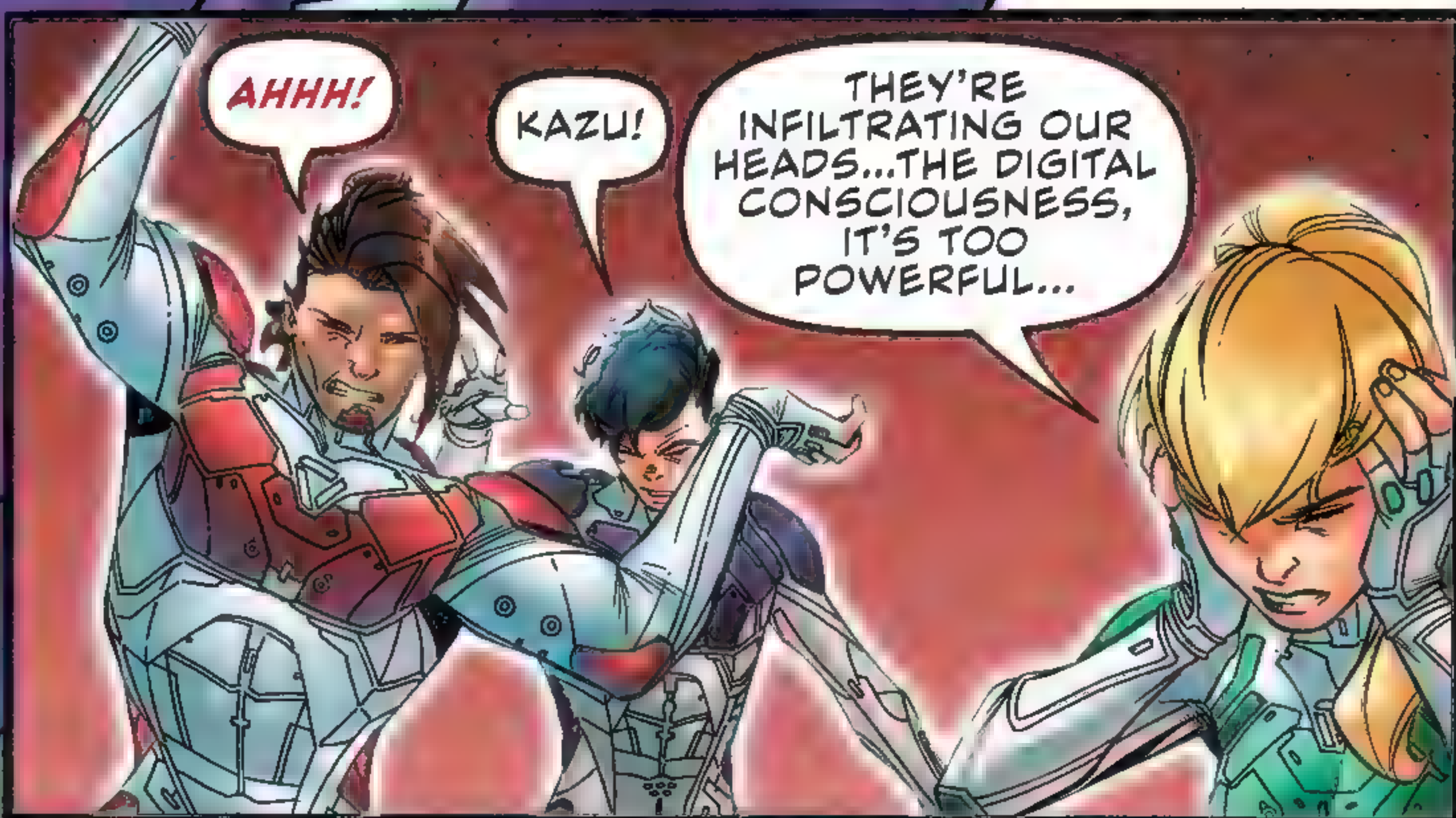
BAKA.

HISTORY
WILL NOT
REMEMBER
YOU.



TOO...
HEAVY...I
CAN FEEL THE
HOLON...IT'S
BUCKLING!

I
CAN'T HOLD
SYNC IN THE
MINDFRAME!



AHHH!

KAZU!

THEY'RE
INFILTRATING OUR
HEADS...THE DIGITAL
CONSCIOUSNESS,
IT'S TOO
POWERFUL...

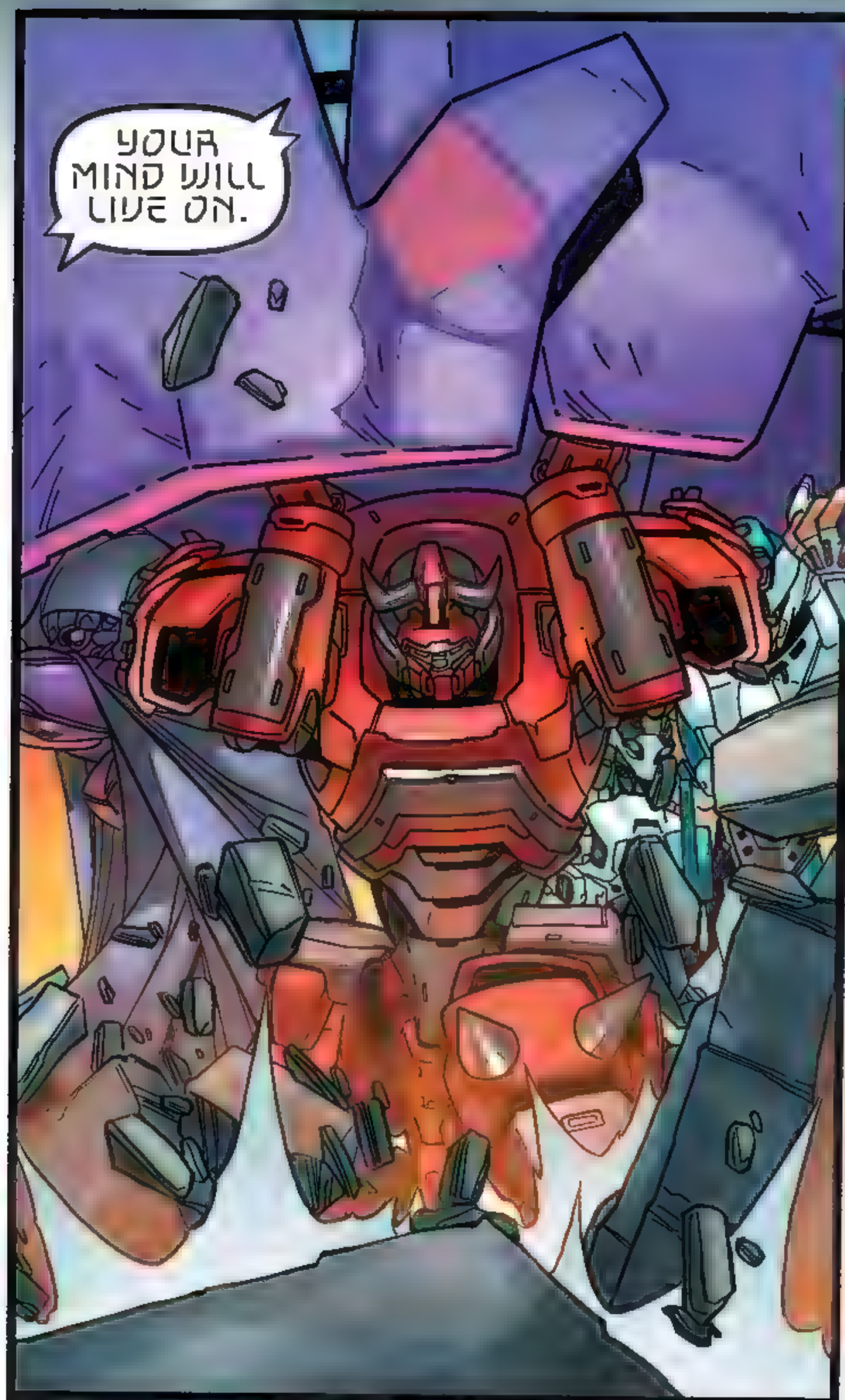


WE
HAVE TO...DO...
SOMETHING...

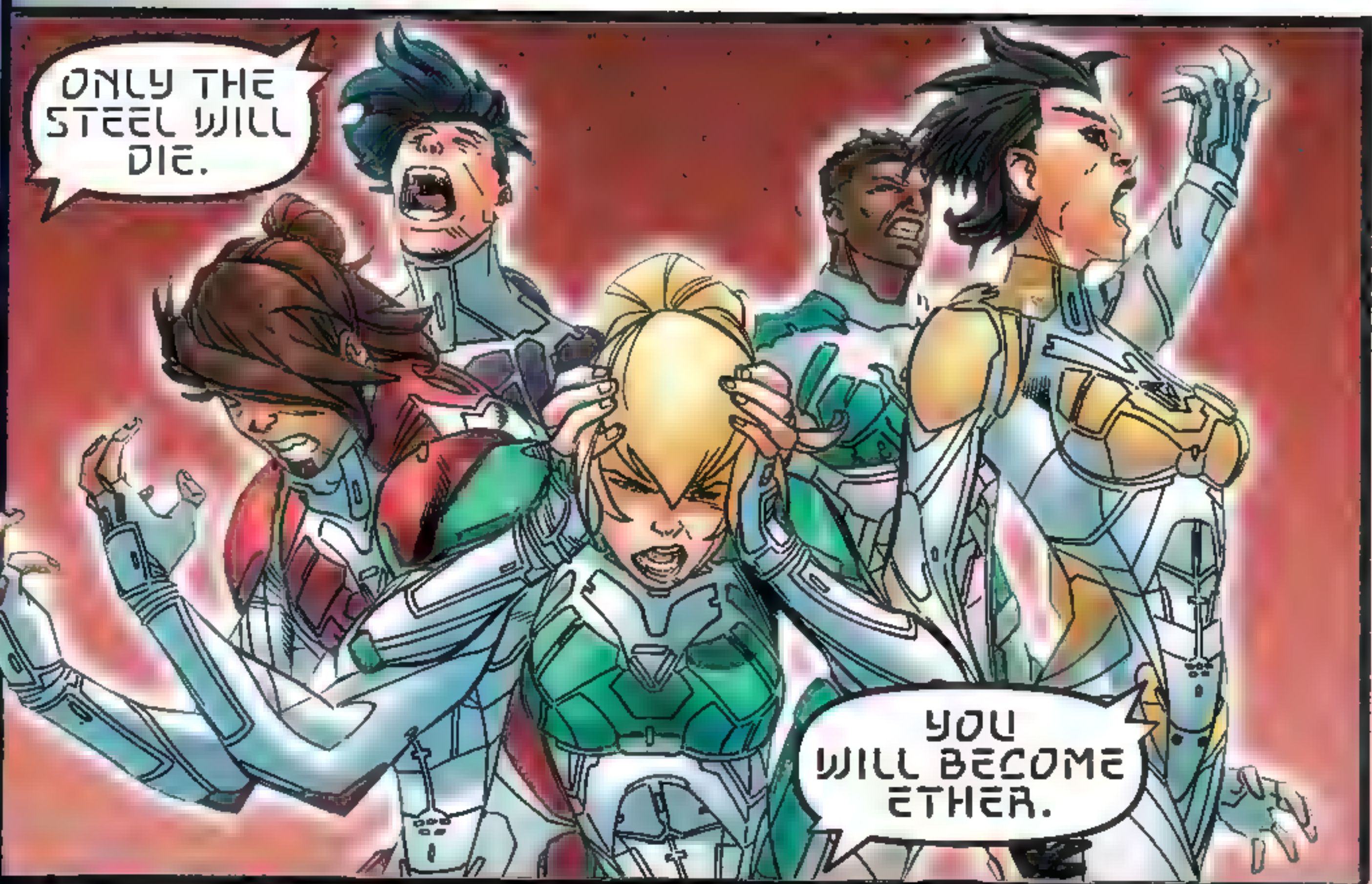


SUBMIT. BE
CONSUMED. JOIN THE
CONSCIOUSNESS.

BECOME
SYCORAX.



YOUR
MIND WILL
LIVE ON.



ONLY THE
STEEL WILL
DIE.

YOU
WILL BECOME
ETHER.

THE
ETHER...
THEIR
MINDS ARE
STILL RUNNING...
FASTER THAN
OURS...

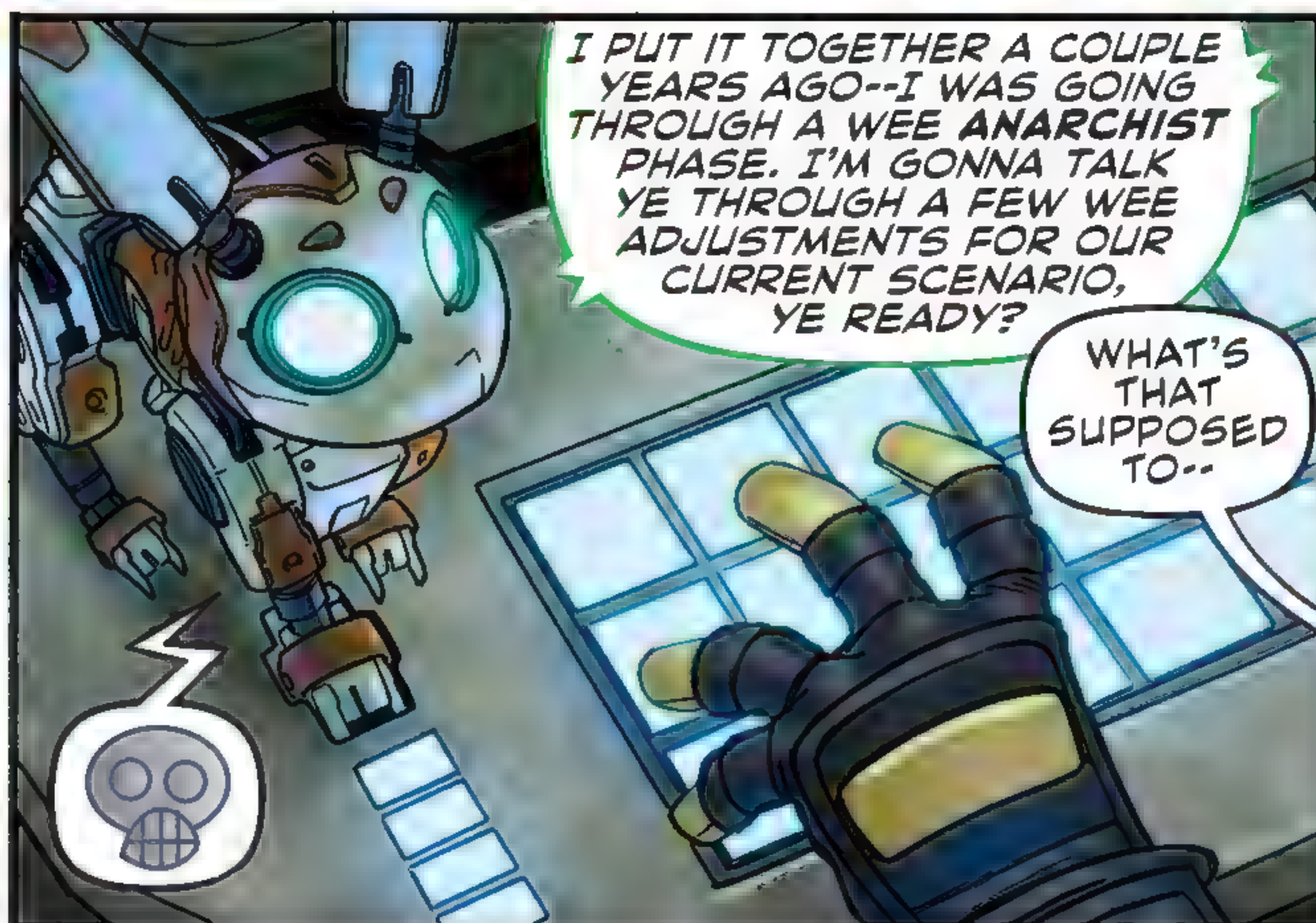
...THE ENTIRE
PROCESSING
POWER...OF
SIEGE.

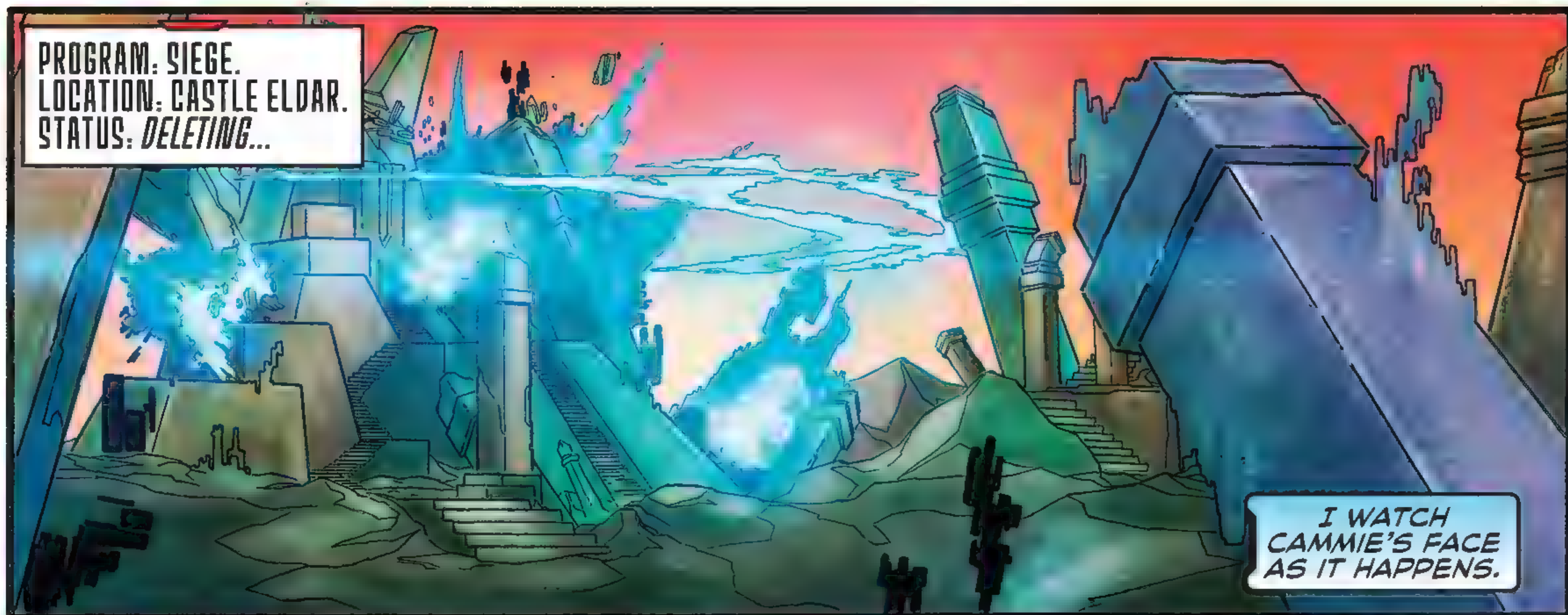
WE CAN'T
POSSIBLY
OUTTHINK
THEM UNLESS
WE...

DAMMIT.

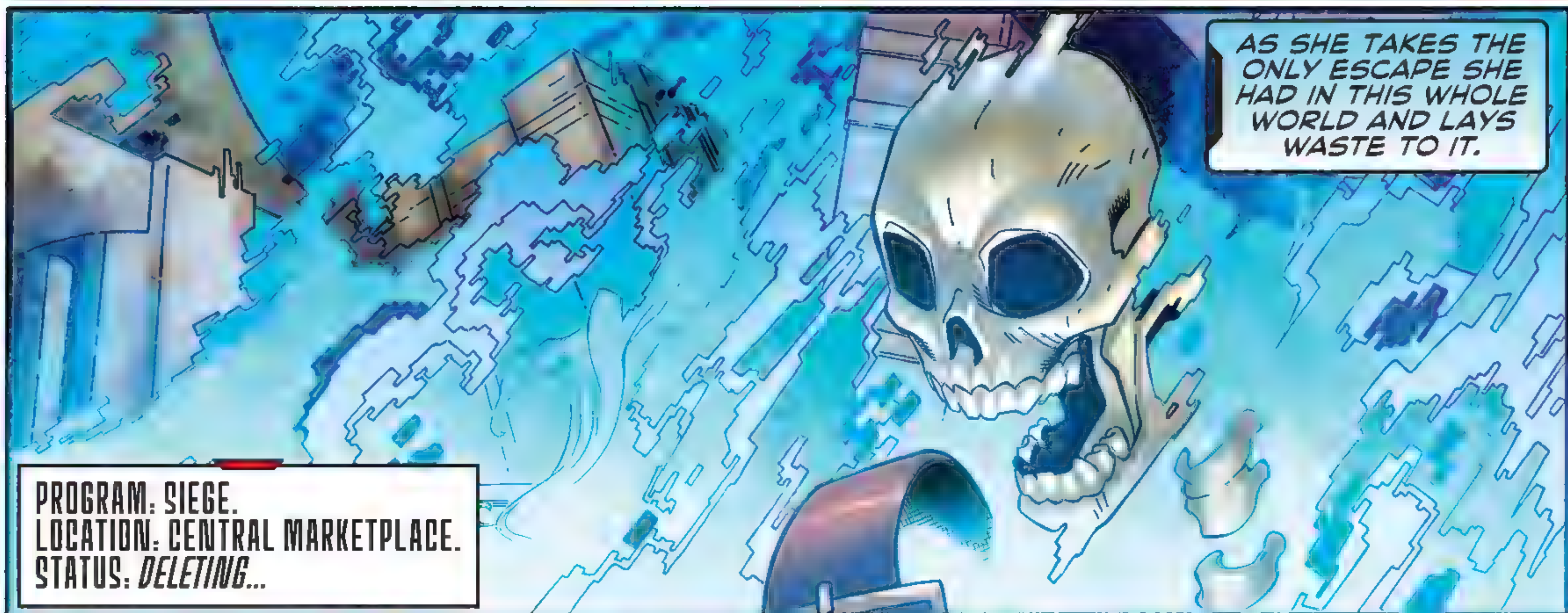
SORRY,
KAYDEN.





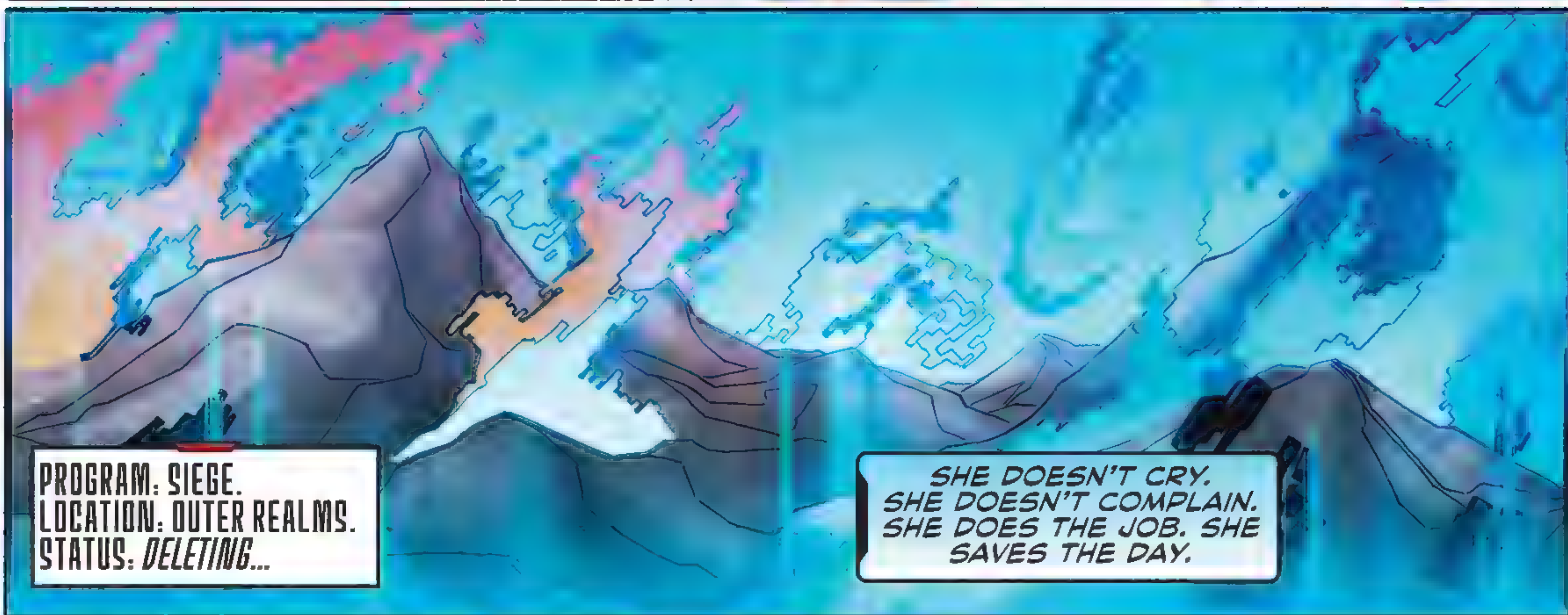


PROGRAM: SIEGE.
LOCATION: CASTLE ELGAR.
STATUS: *DELETING...*



AS SHE TAKES THE ONLY ESCAPE SHE HAD IN THIS WHOLE WORLD AND LAYS WASTE TO IT.

PROGRAM: SIEGE.
LOCATION: CENTRAL MARKETPLACE.
STATUS: *DELETING...*



SHE DOESN'T CRY.
SHE DOESN'T COMPLAIN.
SHE DOES THE JOB. SHE SAVES THE DAY.

PROGRAM: SIEGE.
LOCATION: OUTER REALMS.
STATUS: *DELETING...*



PROGRAM: SIEGE.
LOCATION: [UNKNOWN]
STATUS: *DELETING...*

AND THAT'S WHEN I GET IT.

IT'S NOT
ABOUT ME.



IT NEVER WAS.



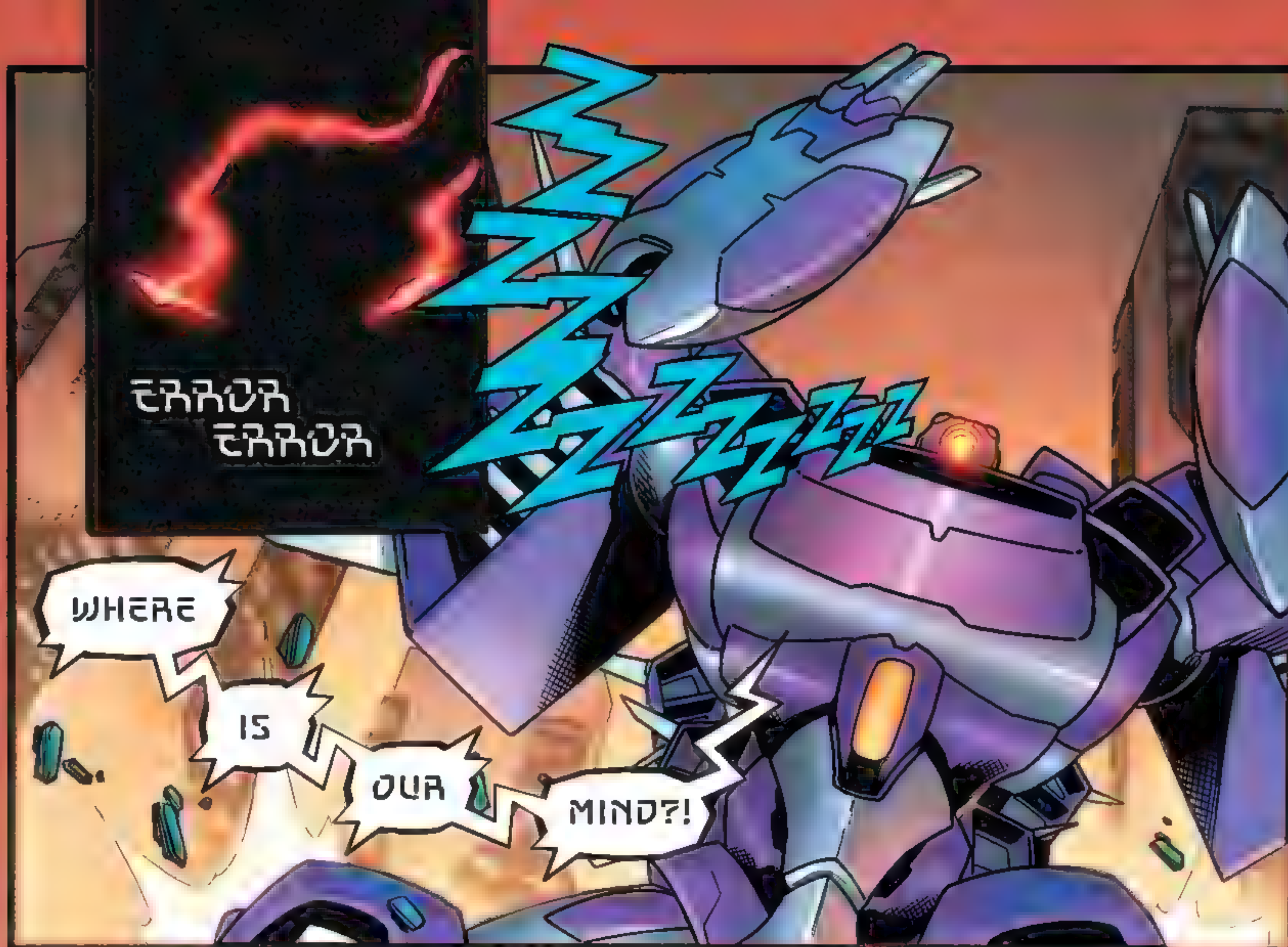
PROGRAM: SIEGE.
STATUS: DELETED.



IT'S ABOUT US.

TOGETHER.





NOW.
NOW WE
CAN HIT THEM.
WHATEVER'S
LEFT IS IN THE
MACHINE.

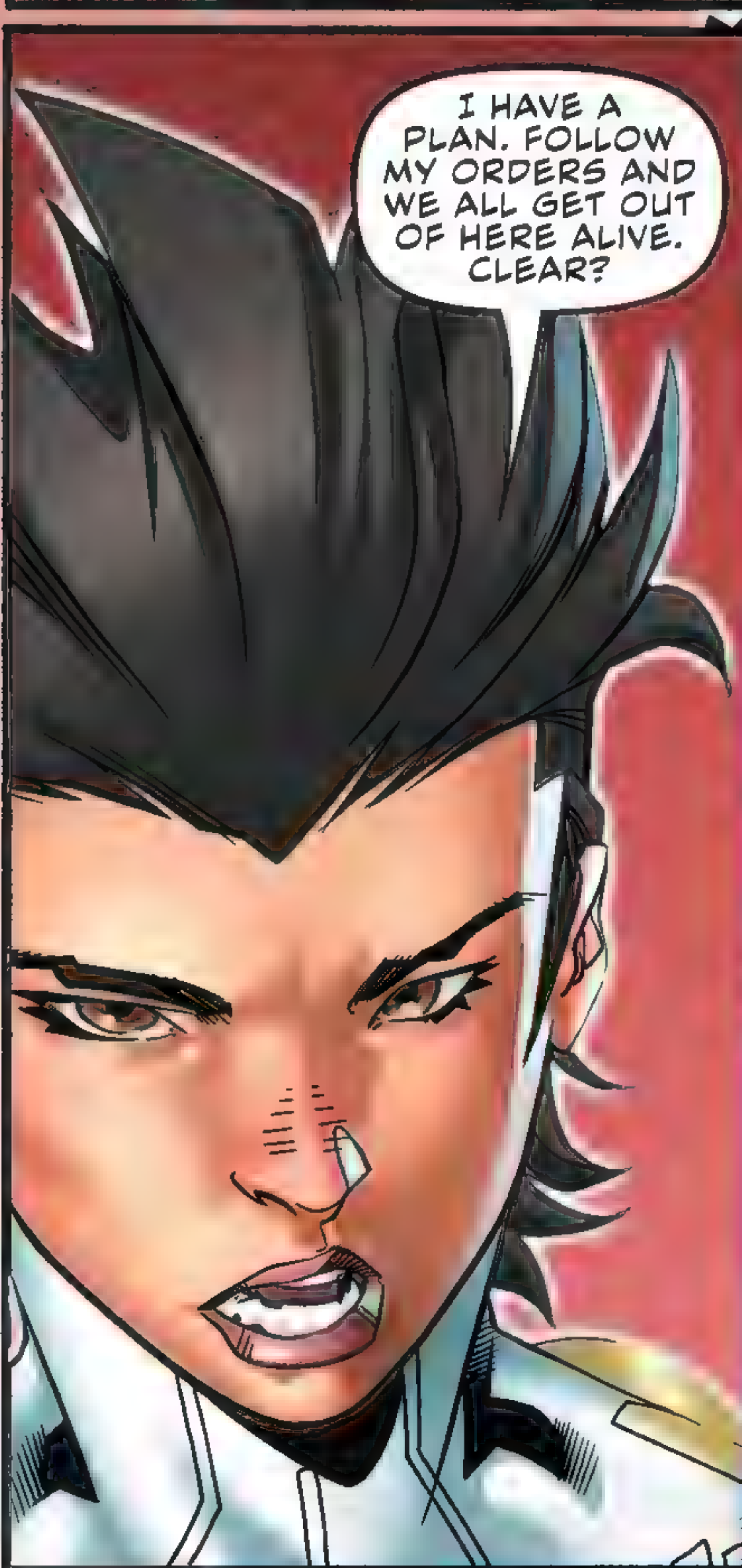
THE
CENTRAL
GUN!



THAT WEAPON PULLS POWER FROM
THE WHOLE MACHINE. WITHOUT MY
CONSCIOUSNESS TO REGULATE
IT AND THEIRS TO DEFEND
IT, WE CAN KNOCK
IT OUT.

BUT
ONE OF US
WILL HAVE TO
SACRIFICE--

NO.
ENOUGH
SACRIFICE
TODAY.



I HAVE A
PLAN. FOLLOW
MY ORDERS AND
WE ALL GET OUT
OF HERE ALIVE.
CLEAR?



CLEAR.

THIS IS YASAMIN MADRANI OF GEN:LOCK, BROADCASTING ON POLITY AND UNION FREQUENCIES.



COMMANDER CARLYLE. GENERAL ANNO. BOTH OF YOUR FORCES ARE IN TATTERS. NEITHER OF YOU CAN STAND AGAINST THE OTHER. BUT IF YOU DO NOT DO EXACTLY AS I SAY, WE WILL ALL DIE TODAY.

I'M NOT ASKING FOR YOUR HELP. I'M TELLING YOU NOW, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.

THE JAPANESE MACHINE KNOWN AS THE SHOGUNATE HAS GONE HAYWIRE.

WE MUST DESTROY IT.

YOU HIT THE MACHINE AT THE EXACT COORDINATES I'M TRANSMITTING.

GEN:LOCK WILL DO THE REST.

THEIR SUPERWEAPON HAS A WEAK SPOT. EXCELLENT. PREPARE THE CANNON.

ON MY MARK.

I'M NOT AN ARTIFACT. NONE OF US ARE.

I'M A SONG. ONE OF MANY.

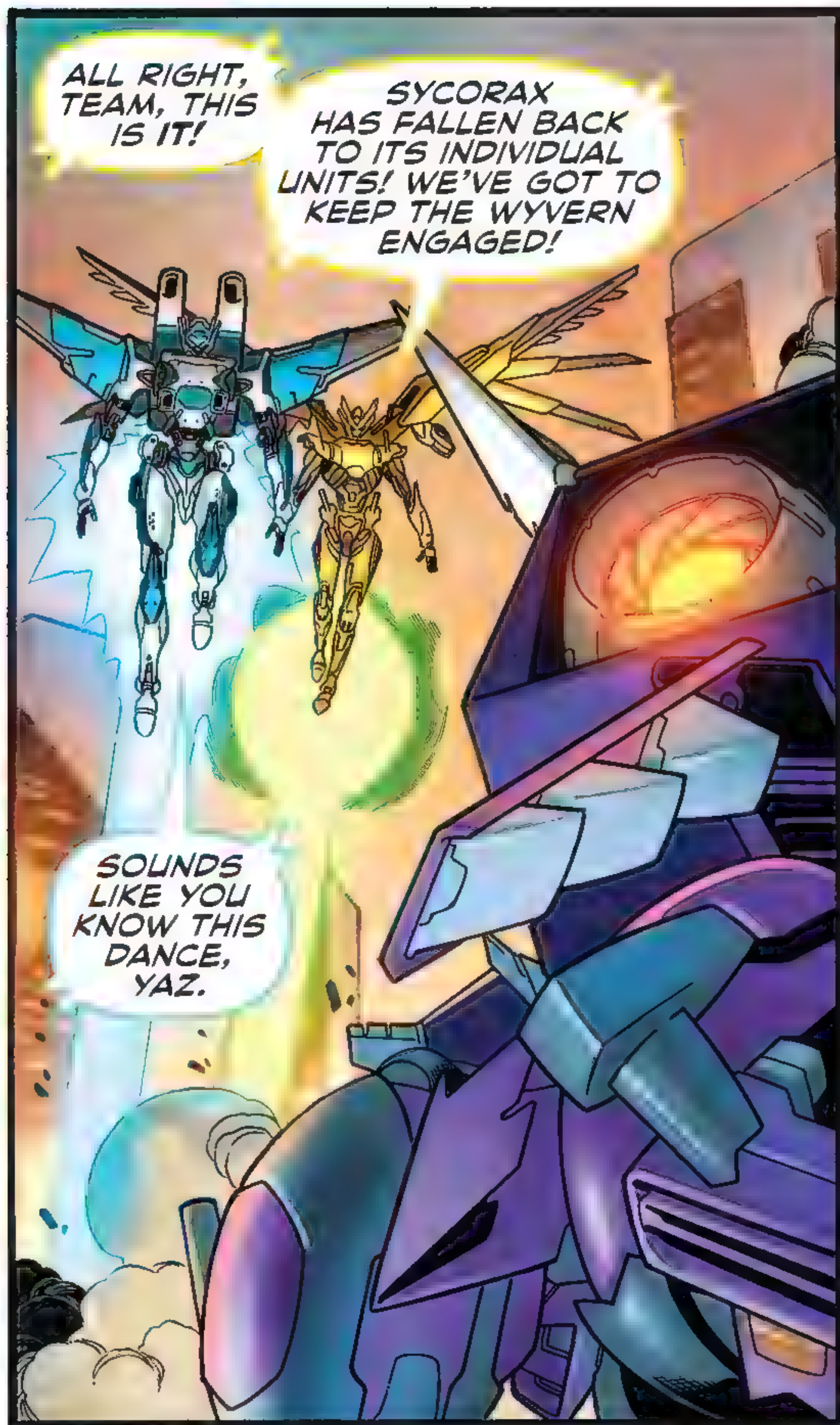
SLUGGED TOGETHER WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER TRACKS. ALONE, WE'RE JUST A LITTLE MUSIC. BUT TOGETHER?

WE'RE THE
MIXTAPE.



AND
WE *W*
ROCK.





ALL RIGHT, TEAM, THIS IS IT!

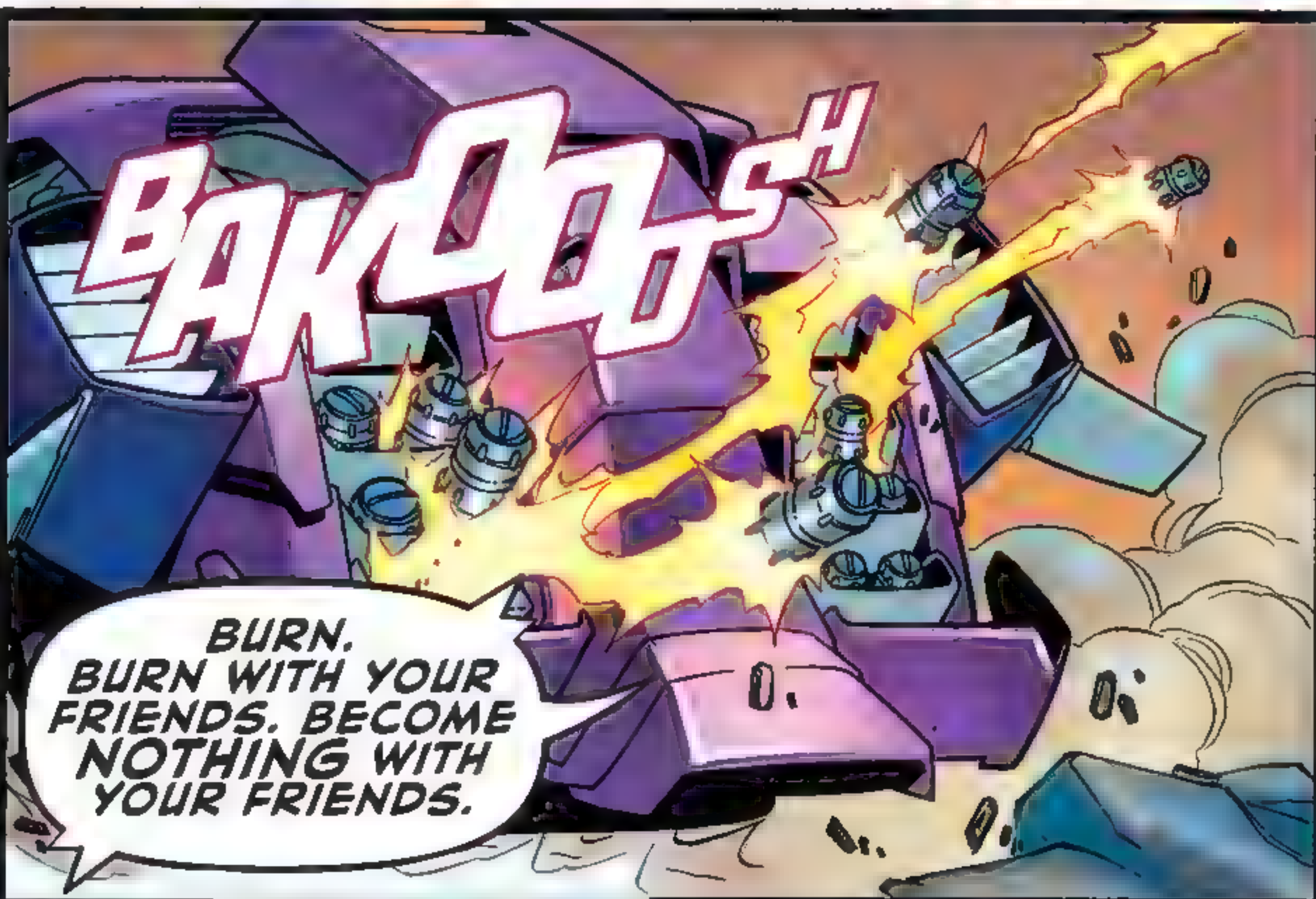
SYCORAX HAS FALLEN BACK TO ITS INDIVIDUAL UNITS! WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THE WYVERN ENGAGED!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW THIS DANCE, YAZ.

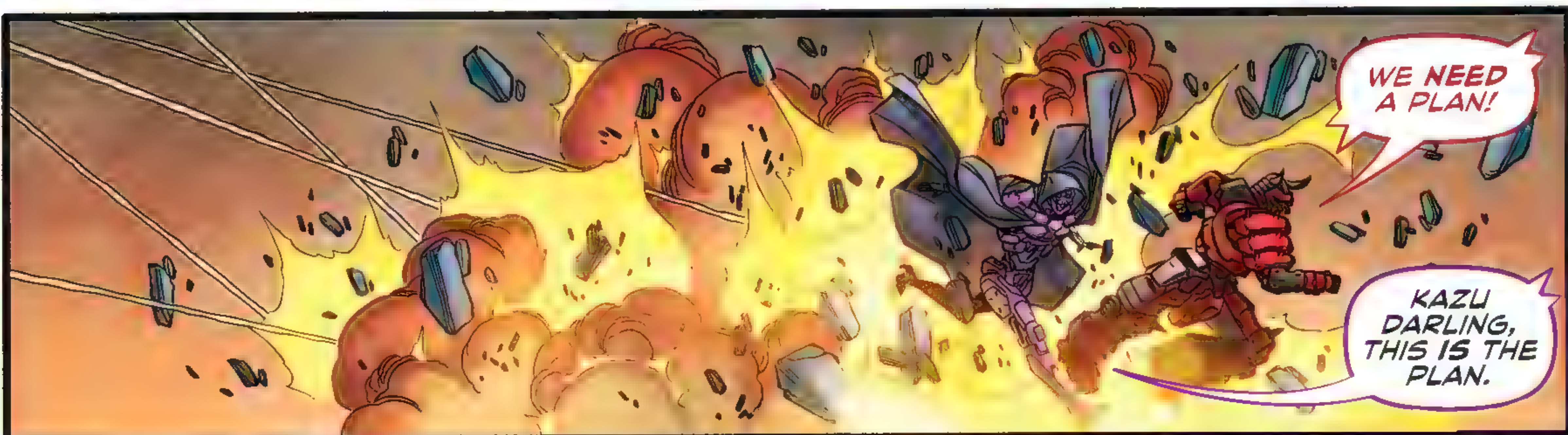


YOU LEAD, I'LL FOLLOW.

BETRAYER. YOU'LL DO NOTHING BUT DIE.



BURN. BURN WITH YOUR FRIENDS. BECOME NOTHING WITH YOUR FRIENDS.



WE NEED A PLAN!

KAZU DARLING, THIS IS THE PLAN.



WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

REMEMBER THIS MORNING? THAT VOICE THAT TOLD YOU YOU WERE UNWORTHY?

...YES.

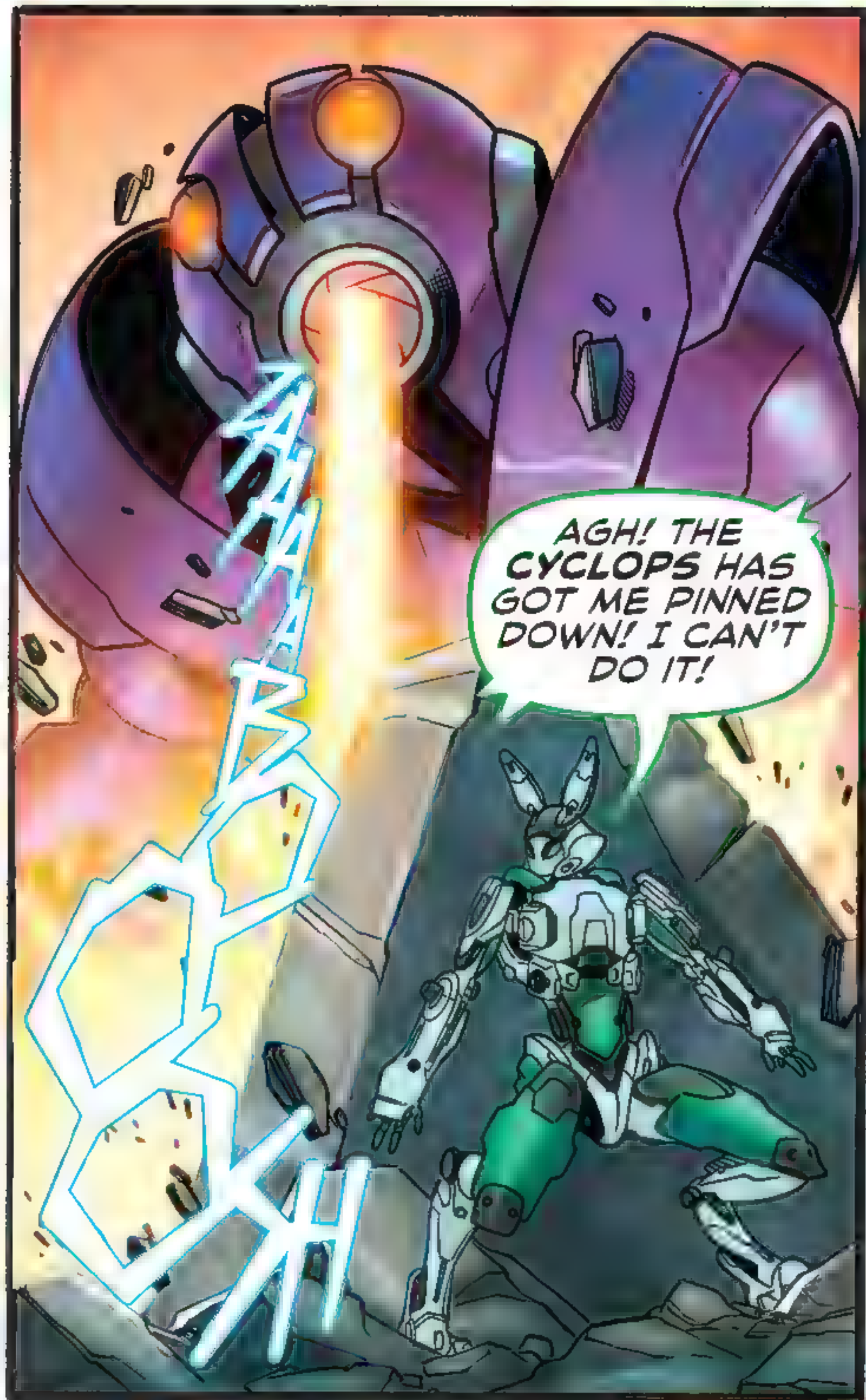
CAN YOU STILL HEAR IT?

YES.

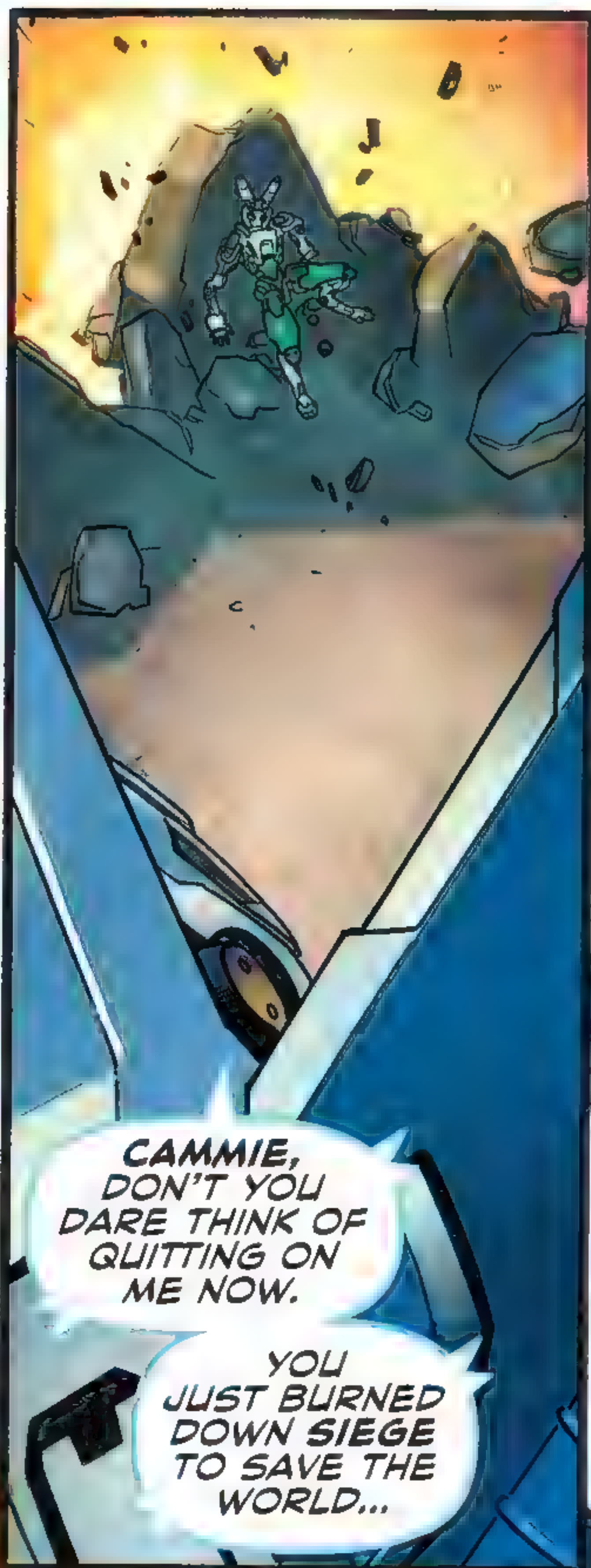


GOOD.

THEN GO KILL IT.

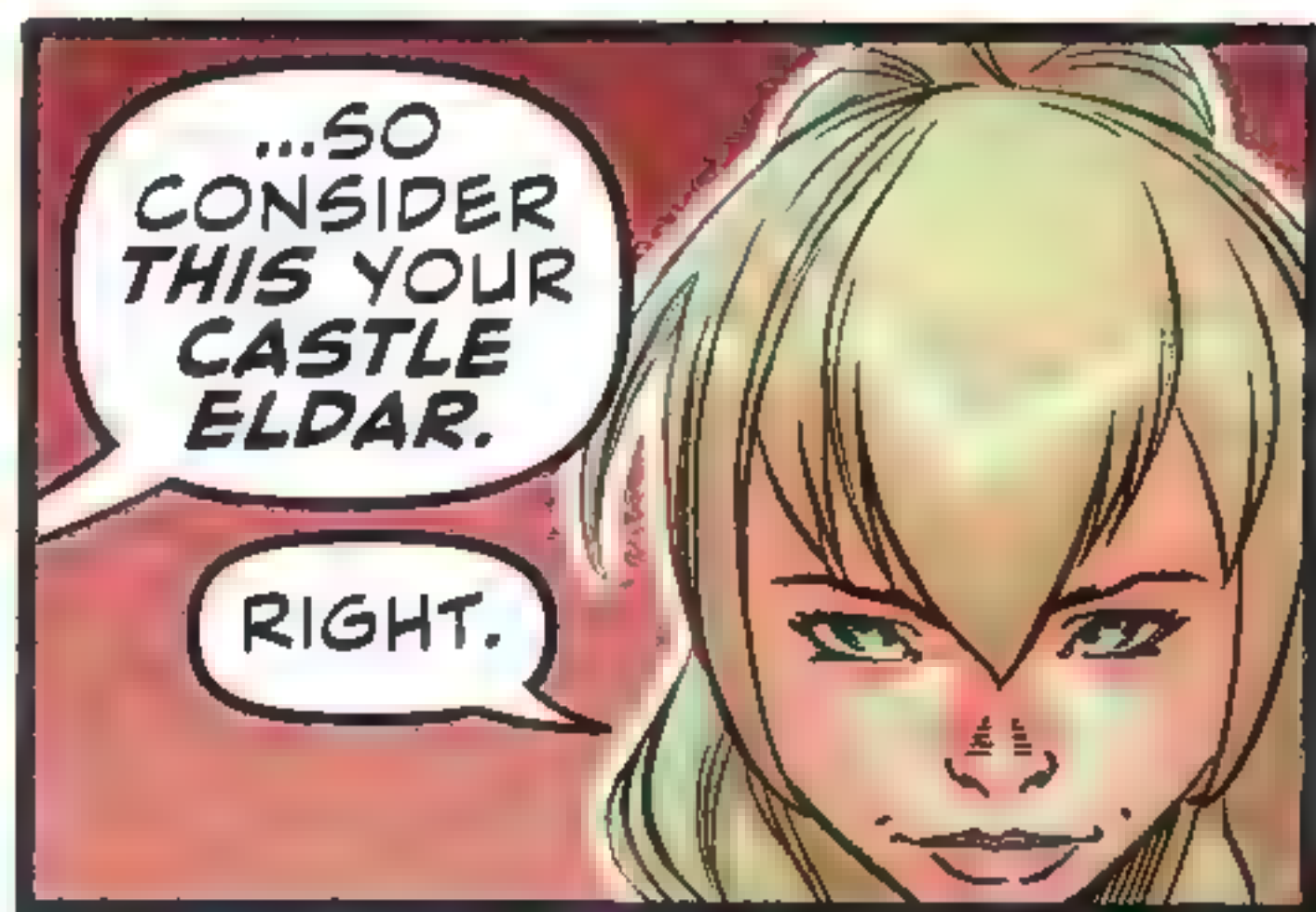


AGH! THE CYCLOPS HAS GOT ME PINNED DOWN! I CAN'T DO IT!



CAMMIE, DON'T YOU DARE THINK OF QUITTING ON ME NOW.

YOU JUST BURNED DOWN SIEGE TO SAVE THE WORLD...



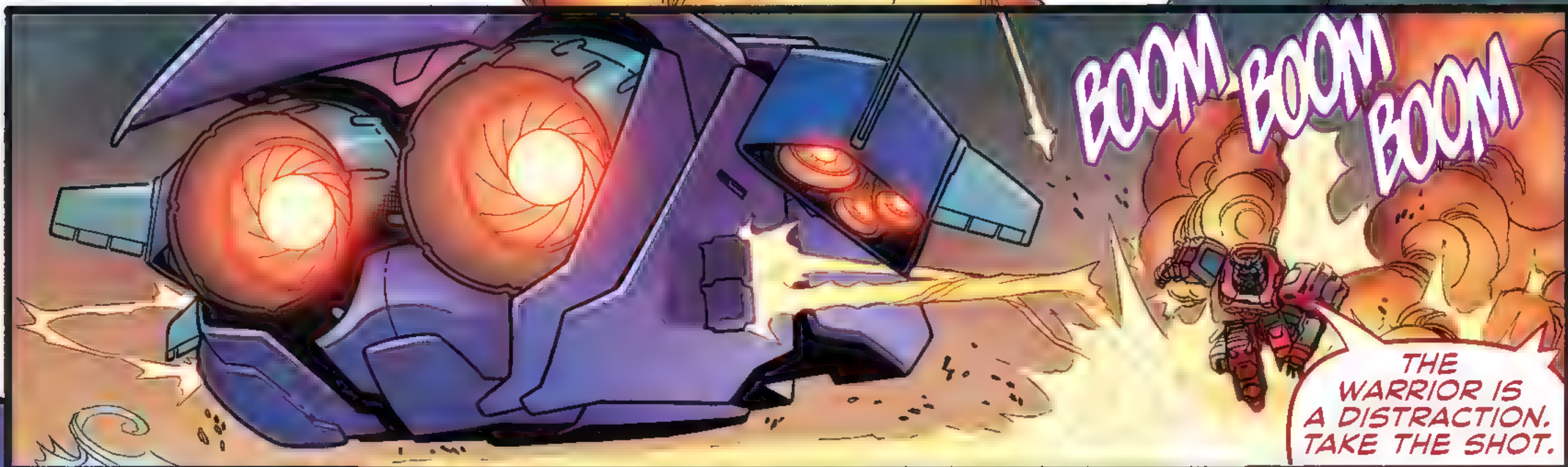
...SO CONSIDER THIS YOUR CASTLE ELDAR.

RIGHT.



HONESTLY?

THIS IS SO MUCH EASIER THAN CASTLE ELDAR.



THE WARRIOR IS A DISTRACTION. TAKE THE SHOT.

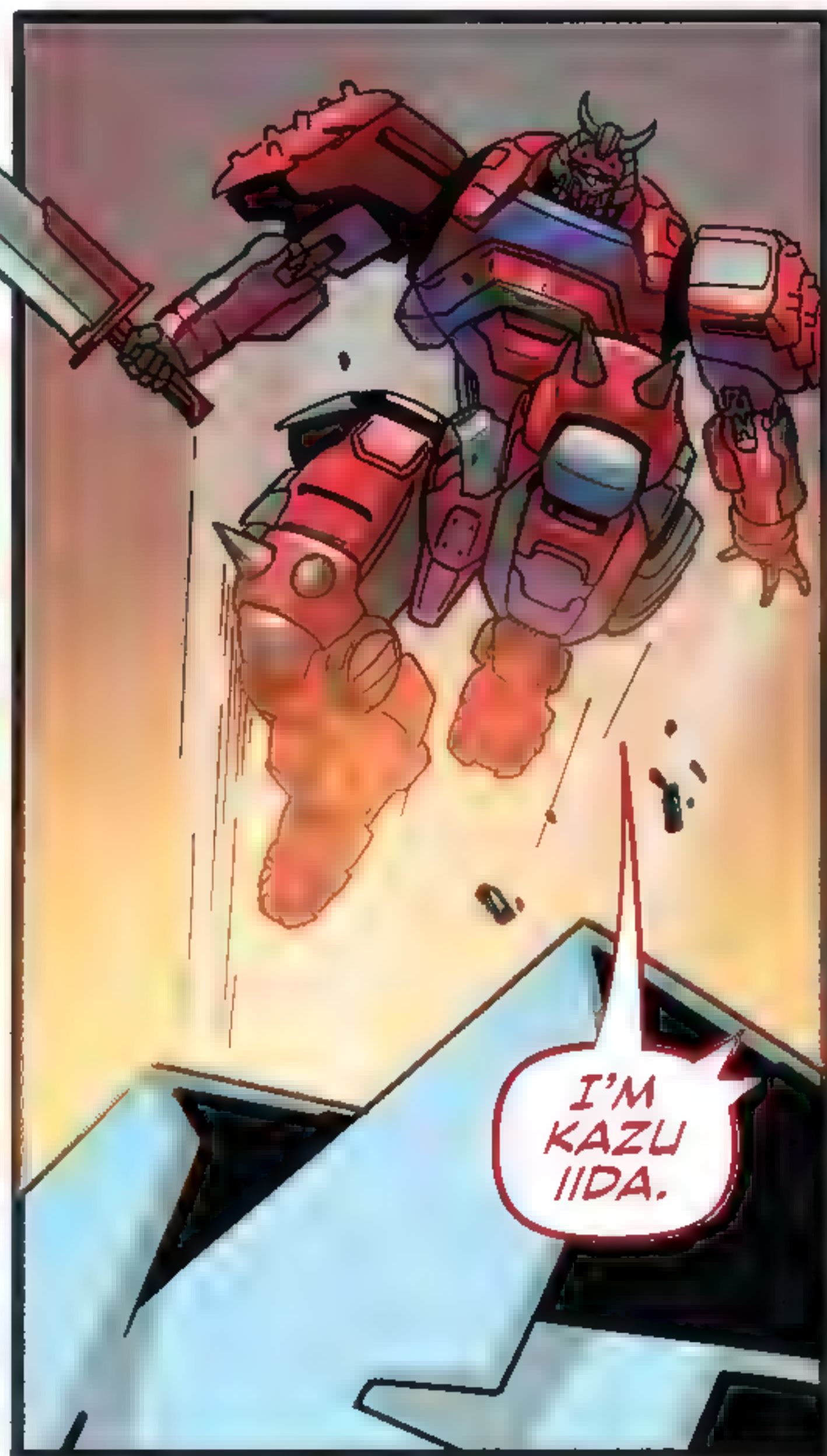


I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.

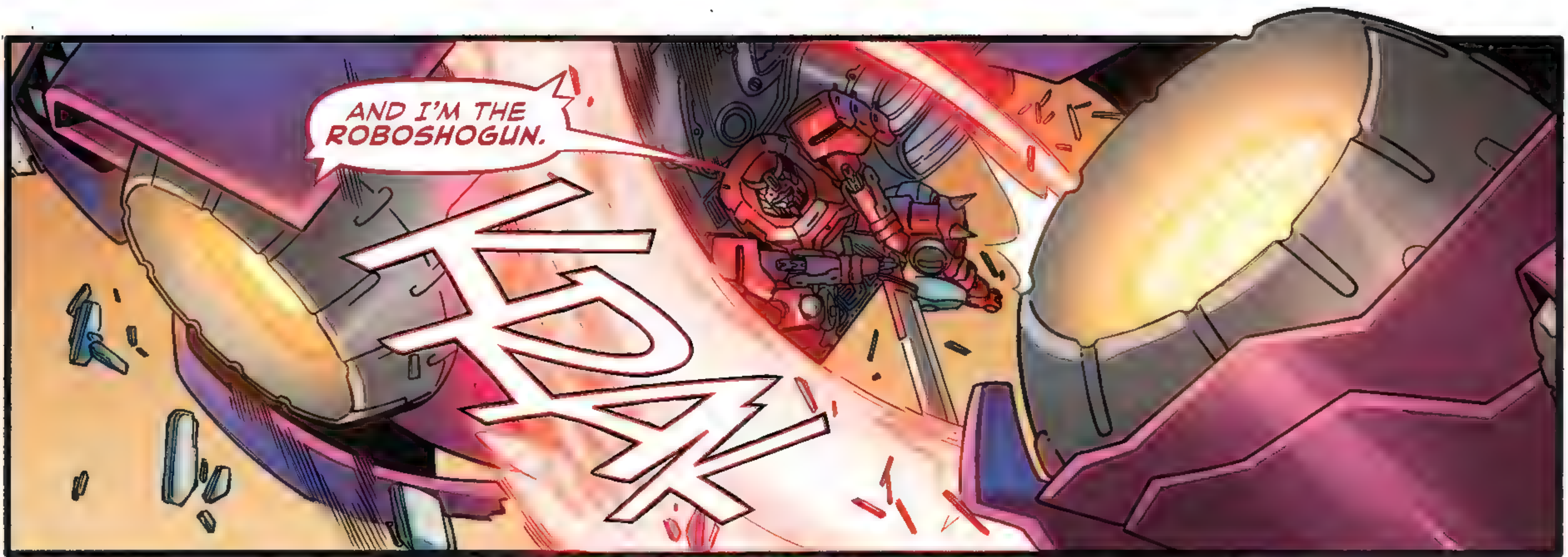


NOW GO BE THE MAN I KNOW YOU ARE.

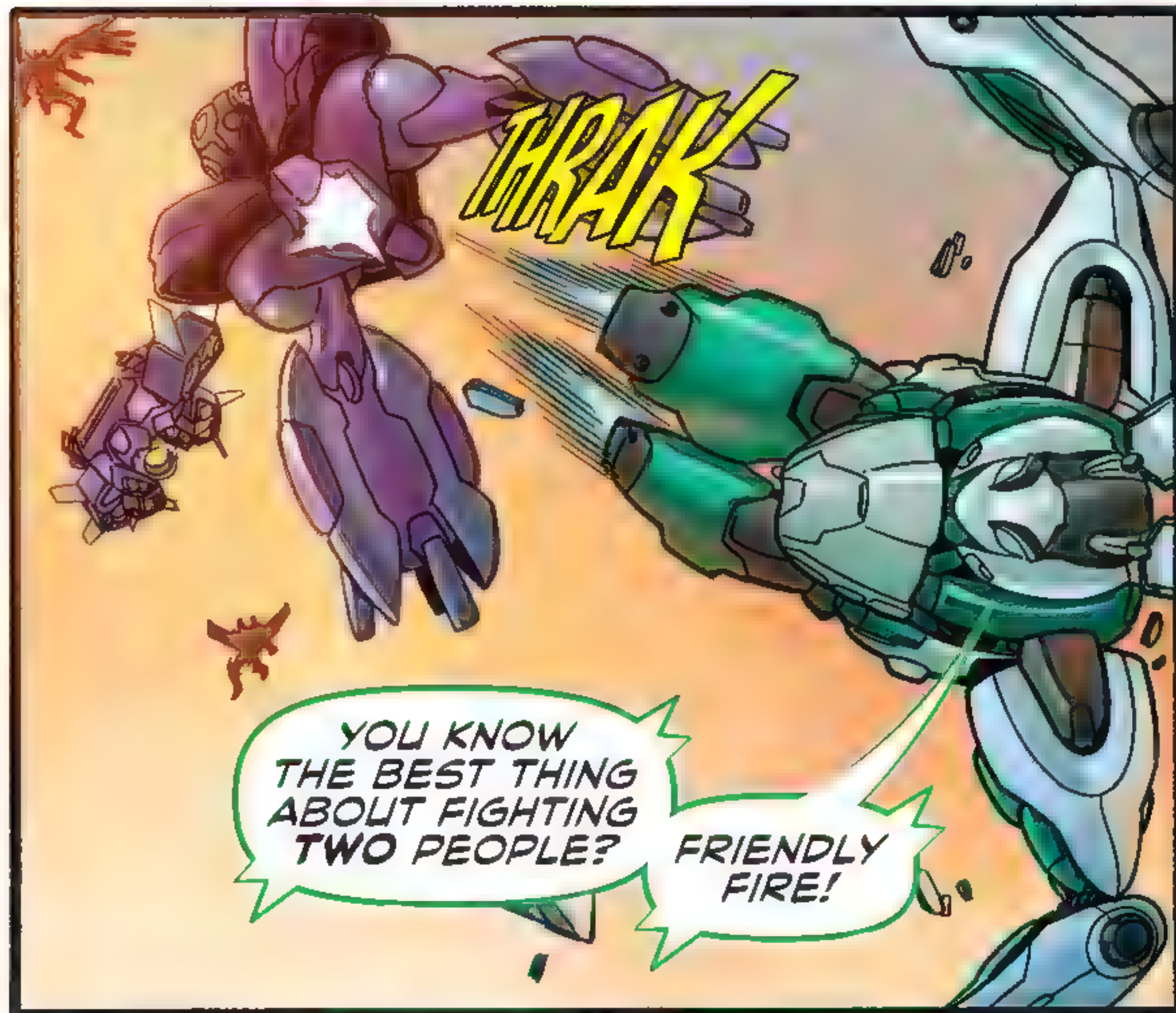
WHY WOULD I BE ANYONE ELSE?



I'M KAZU IIDA.



AND I'M THE
ROBOSHOGUN.



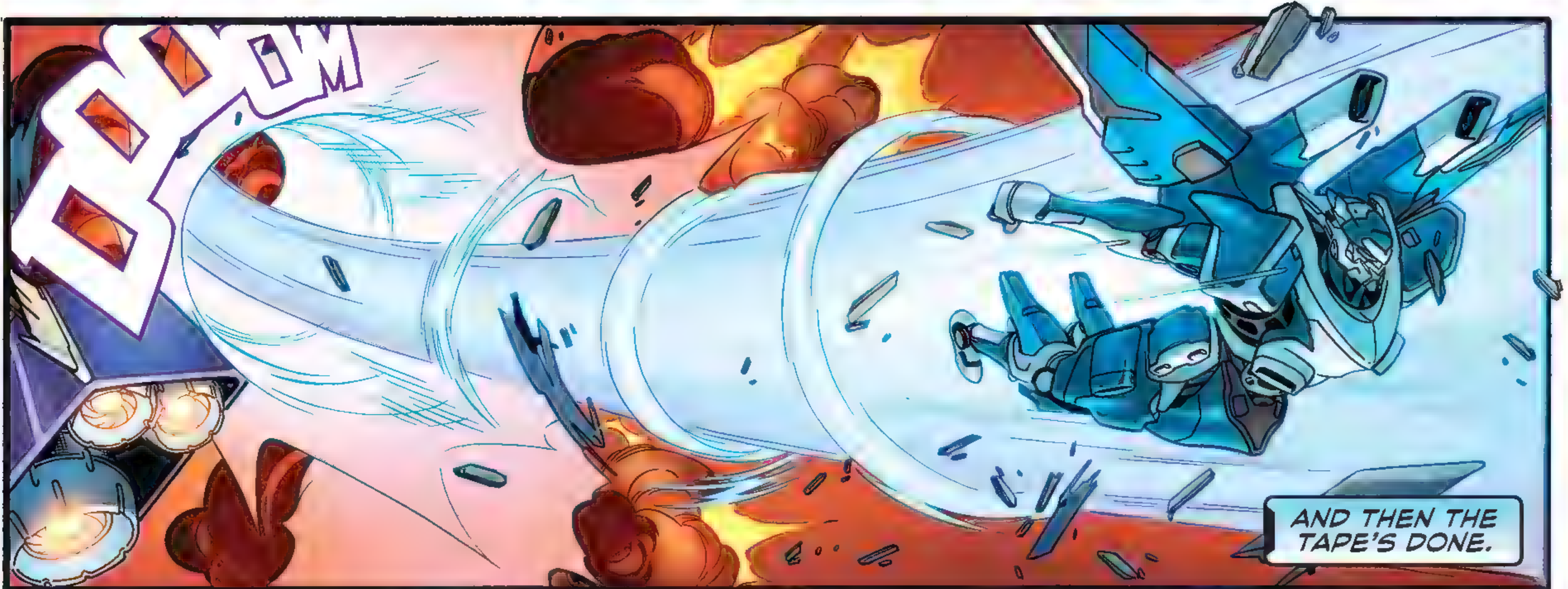
YOU KNOW
THE BEST THING
ABOUT FIGHTING
TWO PEOPLE?

FRIENDLY
FIRE!

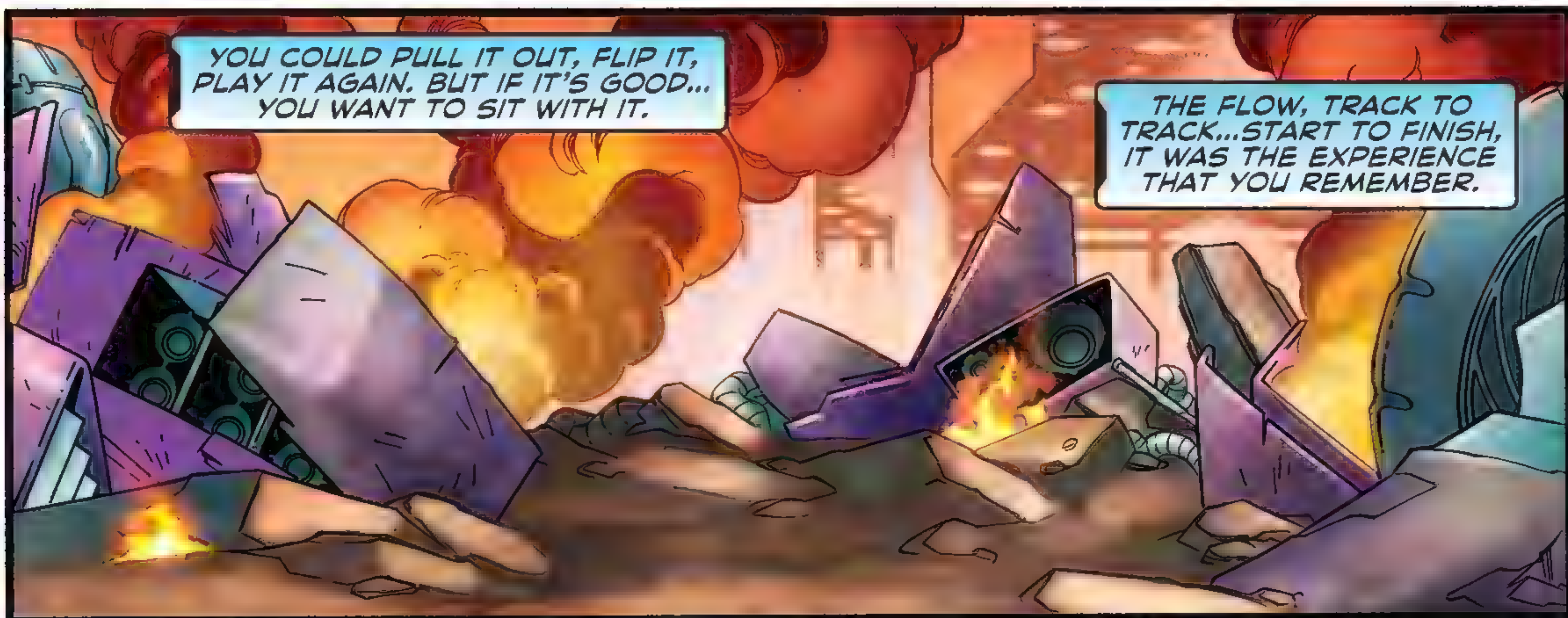


CHASE,
ON MY
MARK!

SORRY,
YAZ, BUT I'M A
LITTLE AHEAD OF
THE TEMPO.

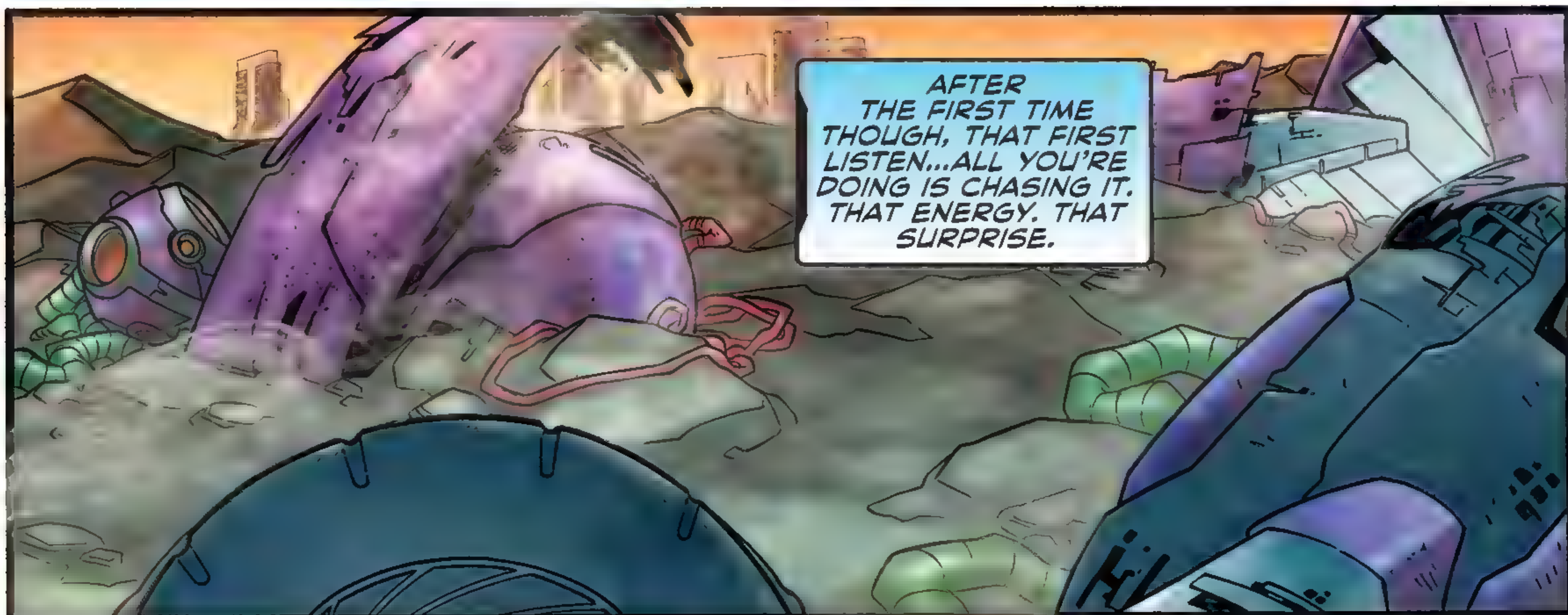


AND THEN THE
TAPE'S DONE.



YOU COULD PULL IT OUT, FLIP IT,
PLAY IT AGAIN. BUT IF IT'S GOOD...
YOU WANT TO SIT WITH IT.

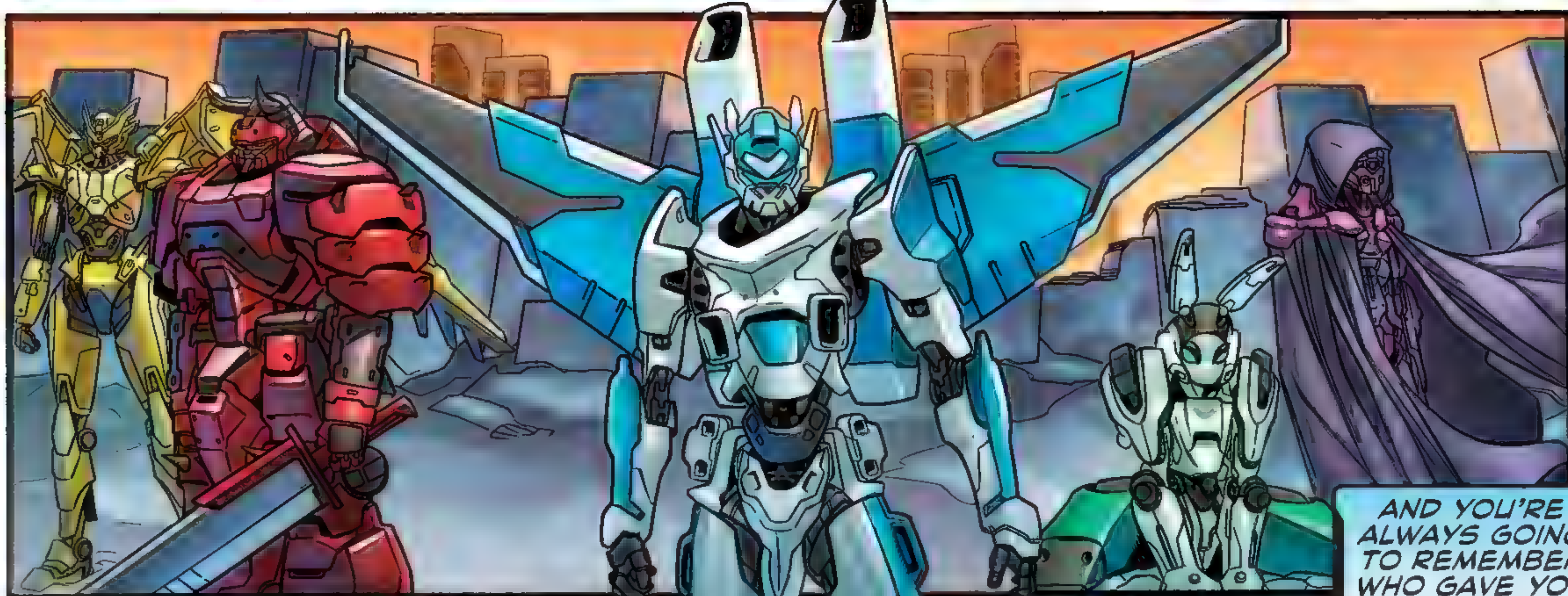
THE FLOW, TRACK TO
TRACK...START TO FINISH,
IT WAS THE EXPERIENCE
THAT YOU REMEMBER.



AFTER
THE FIRST TIME
THOUGH, THAT FIRST
LISTEN...ALL YOU'RE
DOING IS CHASING IT.
THAT ENERGY. THAT
SURPRISE.

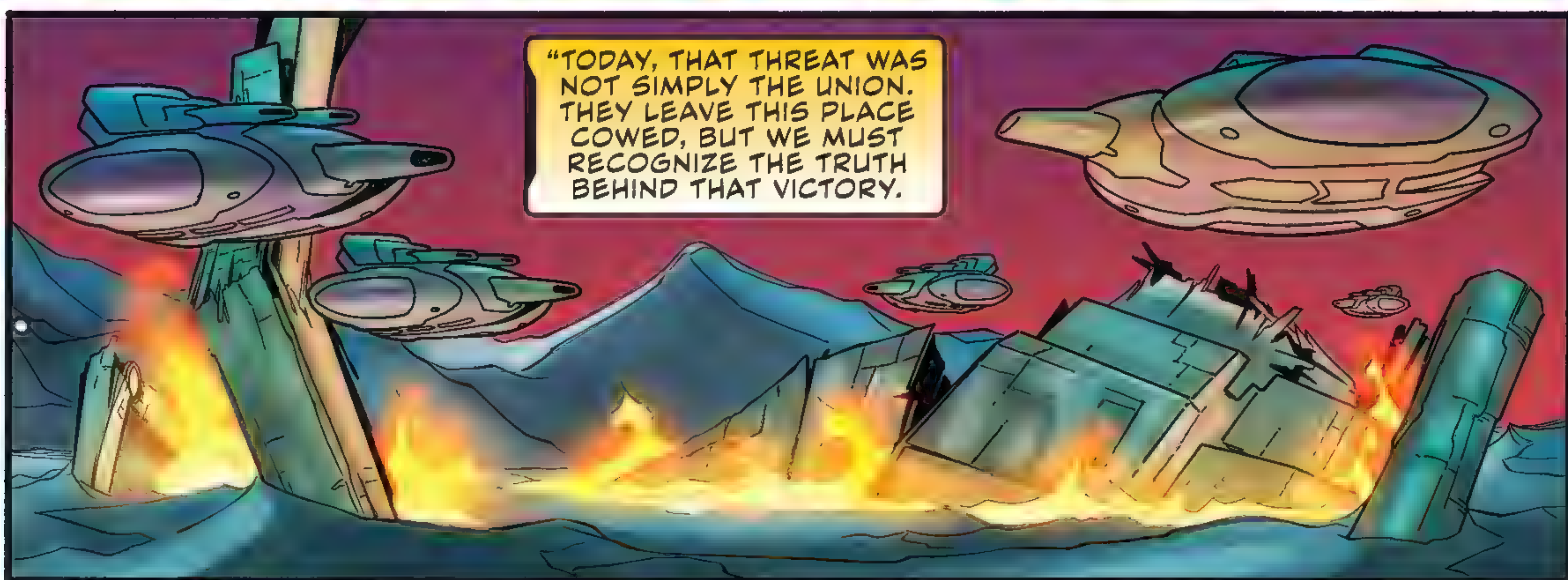


YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING
TO REMEMBER WHO YOU
WERE IN THAT MOMENT.



AND YOU'RE
ALWAYS GOING
TO REMEMBER
WHO GAVE YOU
THAT TAPE.







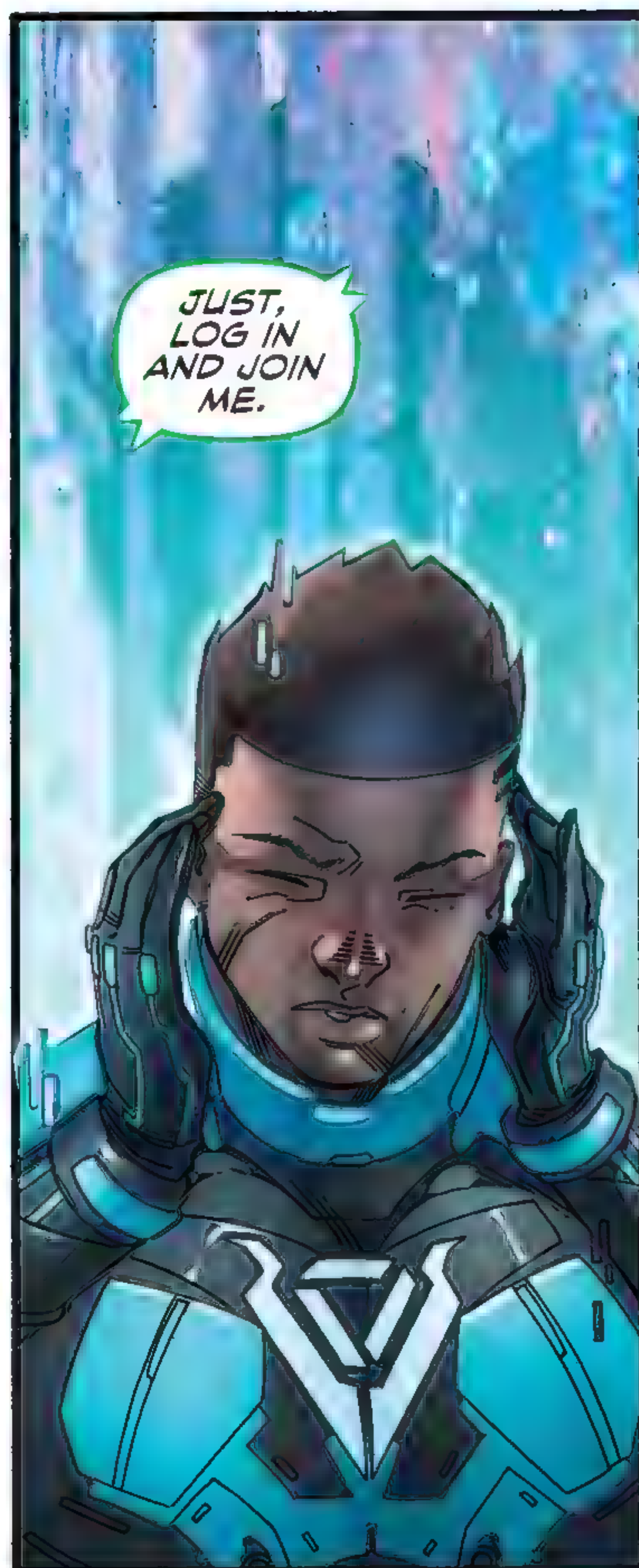
CAMMIE?

YOU'RE
MISSING THE
VICTORY
LAP.



YOU HAVE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING
ME!

I SWEAR
IT'S ONLY
KIND OF WHAT
IT LOOKS
LIKE.



JUST,
LOG IN
AND JOIN
ME.



IT'LL BE
WORTH YOUR
TIME.



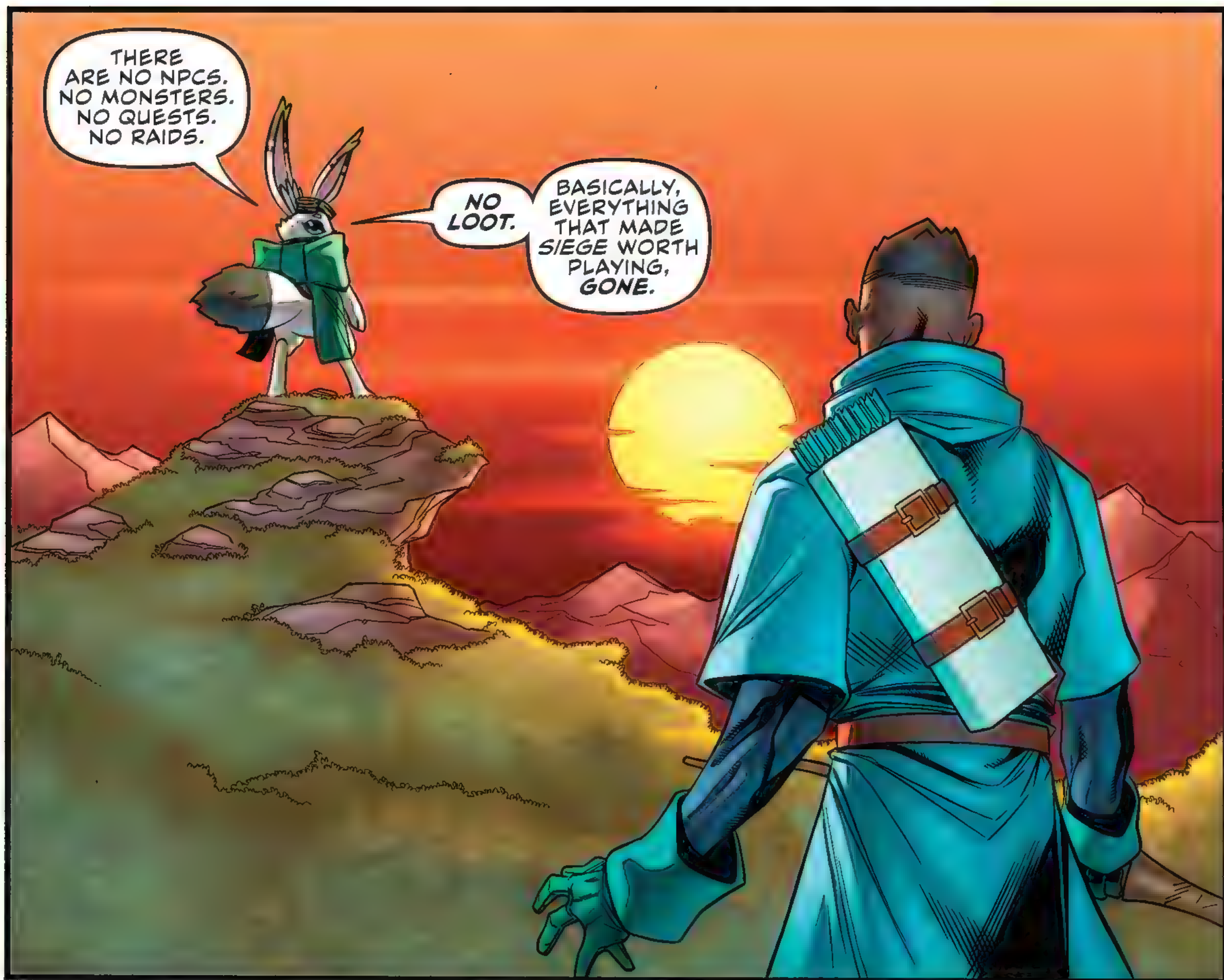
SO,
WHAT DO
WE GOT?

YOU MADE YOUR OWN
PRIVATE HORDE MODE?
I'M ABOUT TO BE
SWARMED BY A MOB OF
MONSTEROIDS? WAIT,
NO, IT'LL BE CHAIN
DEMONS. YOU LOVE
CHAIN DEMONS.

NOTHIN'S
GONNAE
MOB YOI,
YE BAB.



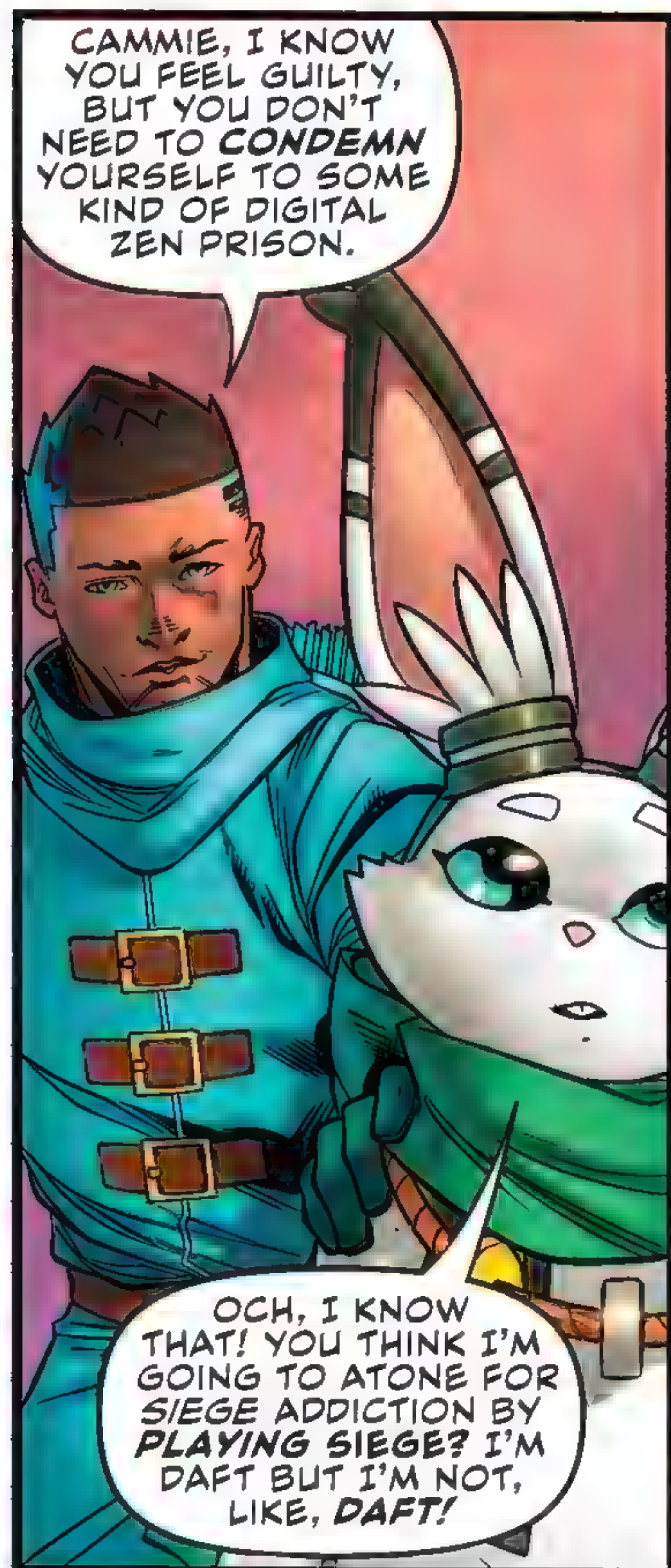
IN FACT,
NOTHING IS
GOING TO
HAPPEN HERE
AT ALL.



THERE
ARE NO NPCs.
NO MONSTERS.
NO QUESTS.
NO RAIDS.

NO
LOOT.

BASICALLY,
EVERYTHING
THAT MADE
SIEGE WORTH
PLAYING,
GONE.



CAMMIE, I KNOW
YOU FEEL GUILTY,
BUT YOU DON'T
NEED TO **CONDEMN**
YOURSELF TO SOME
KIND OF DIGITAL
ZEN PRISON.

OCH, I KNOW
THAT! YOU THINK I'M
GOING TO ATONE FOR
SIEGE ADDICTION BY
PLAYING SIEGE? I'M
DAFT BUT I'M NOT,
LIKE, DAFT!



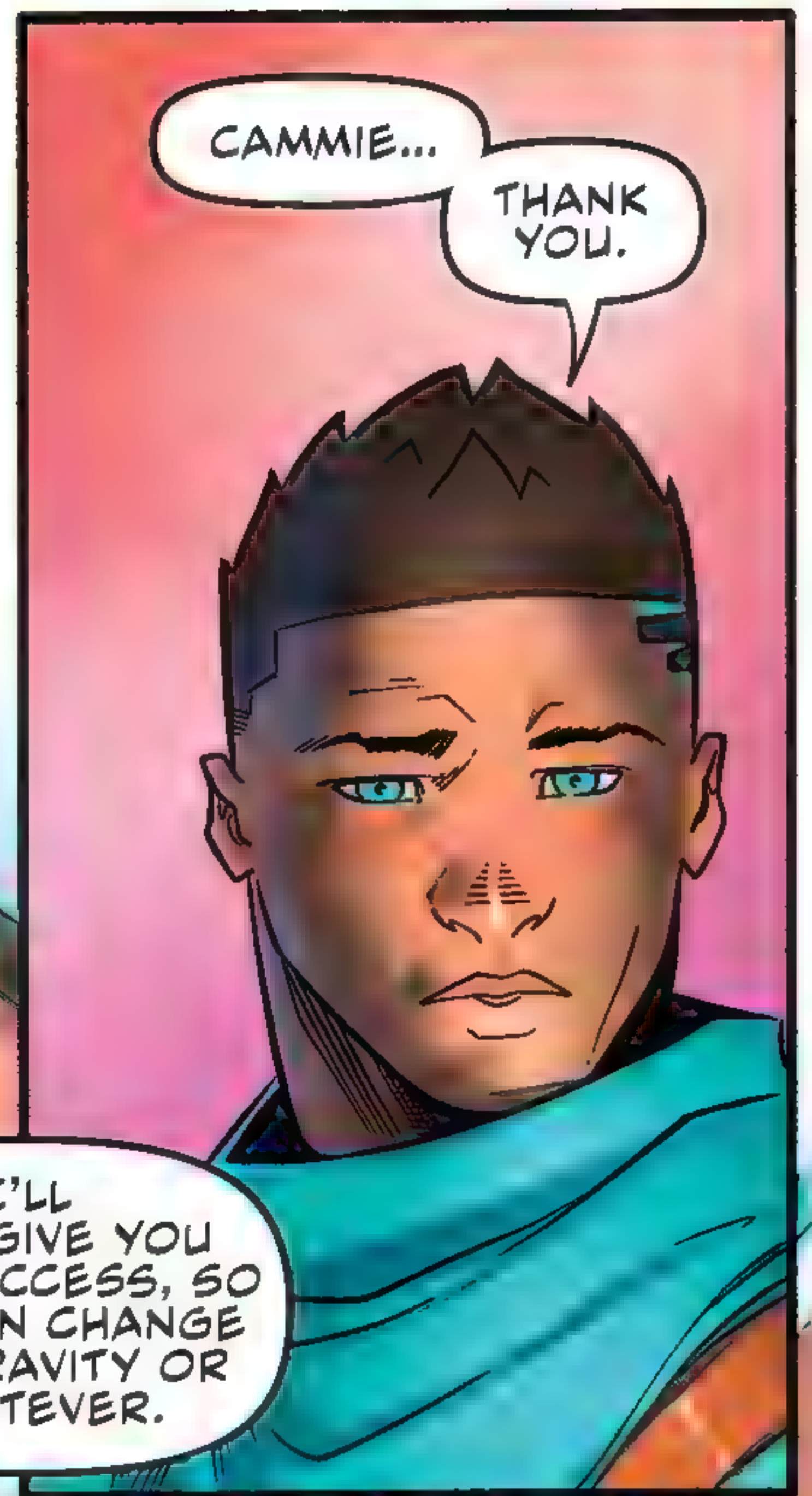
THE
WORK I'VE
GOT TO DO IS
IRL, THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

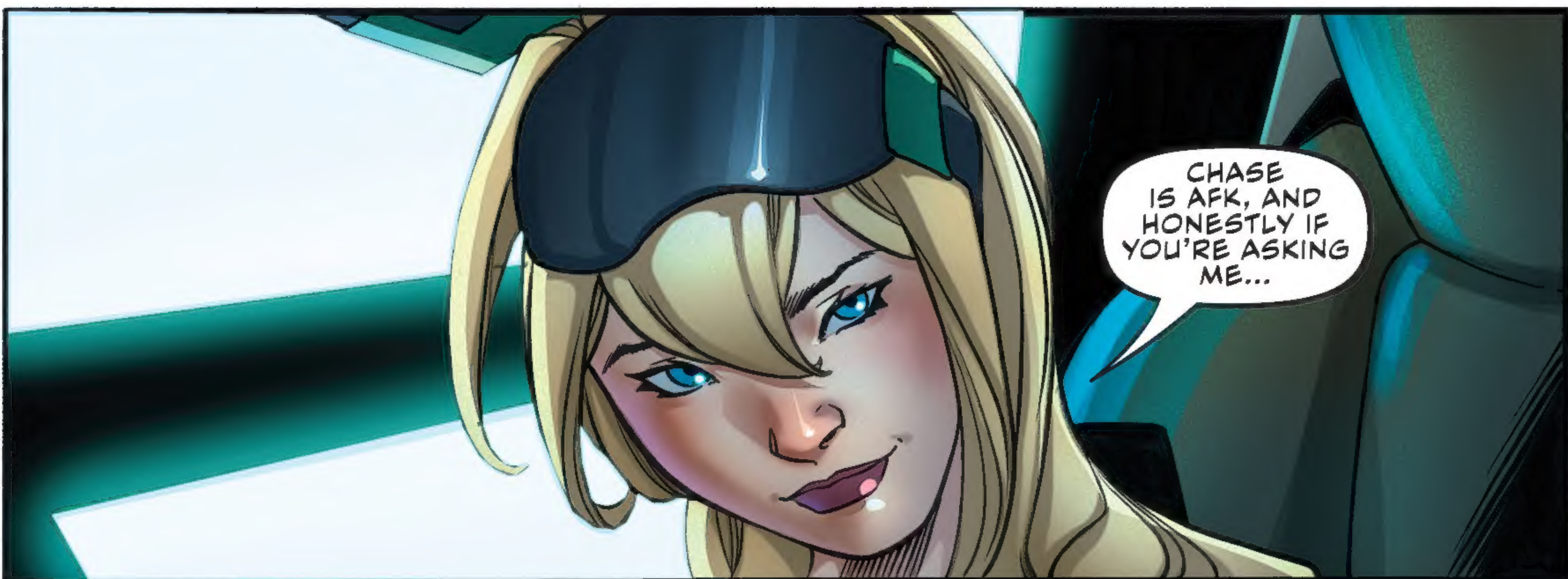
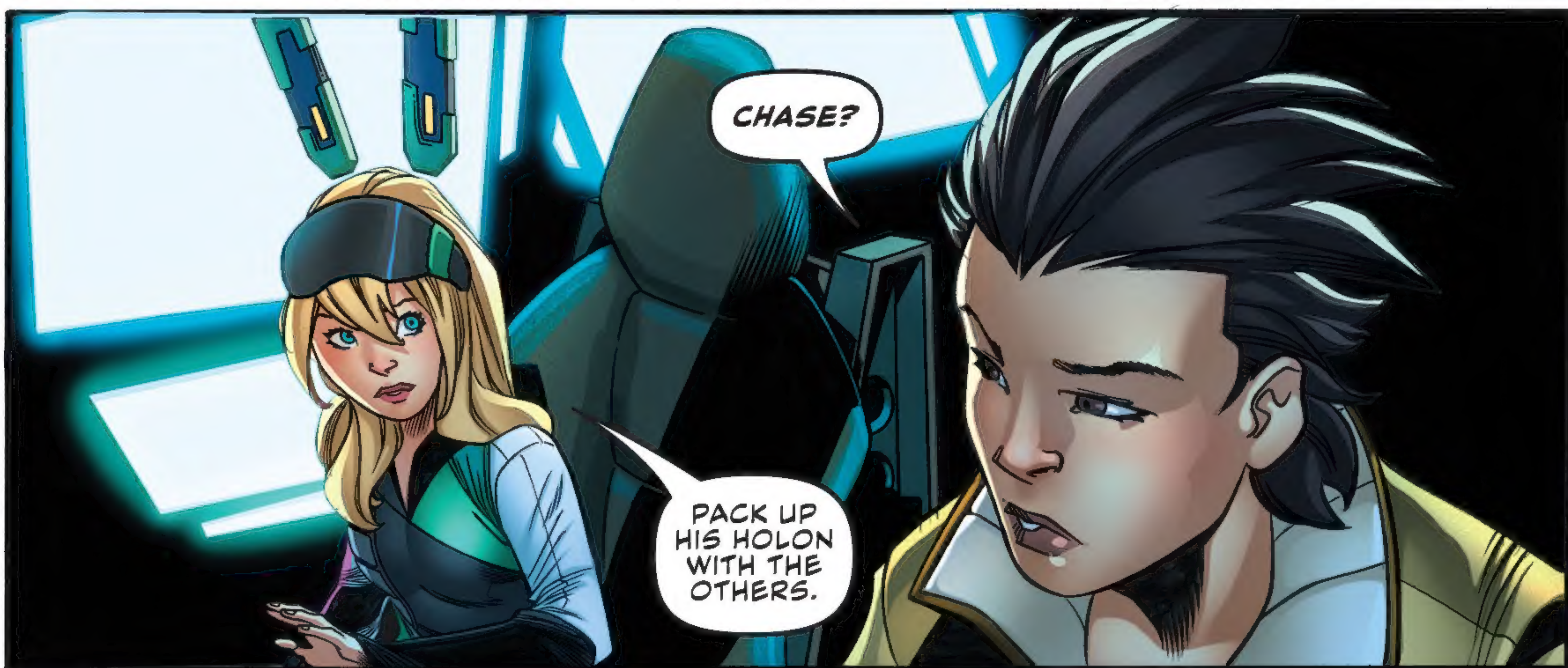
AT LEAST
UNTIL SIEGE
3 COMES
OUT.

NO,
YOU DAFT
SOLDIER.



THIS
IS FOR
YOU.





gen:LOCK #1 variant cover by
JIM LEE and ALEX SINCLAIR





earth is at war!

After the Union's catastrophic attack that ignited a global war, the Polity has assembled a highly skilled team in order to stop the villainous Union from total takeover.

The Polity enlists experimental scientist Dr. Rufus Weller and his team, who are gen:LOCK compatible, which grants them the ability to transfer their minds to mech suits called Holons. Dr. Weller's team may have unlocked a way to save the world through this mechanized gen:LOCK experiment, but will it be enough?

After the team experiences a devastating loss, Julian Chase, Yaz Madrani, Kazu Iida, Val Romanyszyn,

and Cammie MacCloud journey to Japan, one of the last remaining free countries, to fight against unstoppable evil forces.

Spinning out of the hit Rooster Teeth animated series, this action-packed, futuristic story is kicked off by writers **Collin Kelly** and **Jackson Lanzing** with talented artists **Carlo Barberi** and **Walden Wong**. Collects *gen:LOCK* #1-7.

dccomics.com

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

